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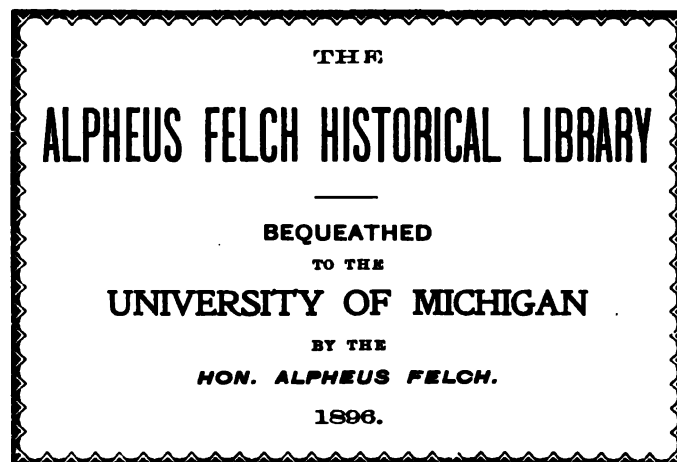
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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE

John

OF

His late Excellent and most Gracious Majesty,

GEORGE THE THIRD,

EMBRACING ITS MOST MEMORABLE INCIDENTS, AS THEY WERE DISPLAYED
IN THE IMPORTANT RELATION OF

SON, HUSBAND, FATHER, FRIEND, AND SOVEREIGN.

WITH A VARIETY OF

63646

SECRET ANECDOTES OF HIS MAJESTY, THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED
CHARACTERS, CONNECTED WITH THE BRITISH COURT ;

The whole Collected from the most Authentic Sources,

AND TENDING TO ILLUSTRATE THE CAUSES, PROGRESS, AND EFFECTS, OF THE PRINCIPAL
POLITICAL EVENTS OF HIS GLORIOUS REIGN.

COMPRISING, ALSO, A MOST VALUABLE AND INTERESTING

HISTORICAL MEMOIR OF THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK,

FROM ITS EARLY FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT PERIOD,

TRANSLATED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS HISTORY, FROM THE CELEBRATED LATIN WORK, ENTITLED
ORIGINES GUELPHICÆ.

WITH PORTRAITS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY ROBERT HUISH, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF THE MEMOIRS OF THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE, LIFE OF QUEEN CAROLINE, &c. &c.

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1821.

LONDON:
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Northumberland-court.

TO HIS MAJESTY,

THE KING.

SIR,

As it is not the custom of this country to approach a Personage of such exalted distinction but according to the rules of courtly etiquette, I may be thought to have taken an indecorous license, in dedicating this work to Your Majesty. Indeed, I should be the foremost to pass a judgment of censure on my own obtrusion, did I not flatter myself that the subject to which I solicit your condescending attention, will effectually secure me from such a sentence. Happily for me I stand before Your Majesty on this occasion, not as an insignificant individual, but as the humble Representative of Millions.

Seated on the throne of your Illustrious Predecessors, their bright and splendid example must be ever present to your contemplation, whether you recall to your consideration the mighty deeds which they achieved for their country's welfare, or the noble intrepidity which they ever displayed in defence, and in support, of the Glorious Constitution of the Land. Splendid, indeed, have been the deeds of your Ancestors, but brightest and foremost in the rank of English Sovereigns stands

stands your late Honoured Sire ; nor, while memory lasts, will your manly sensibilities suffer you to dismiss from it the gratifying, though melancholy, recollection of those Tears which a Nation shed, when he exchanged his Earthly for an Heavenly Crown—you then beheld with what unabating fervency and zeal the English People can attach themselves to a Sovereign, whose Parental Regards, whose Personal Virtues, and whose Beneficent Attentions to their Prosperity, both merited and commanded their Veneration and their Love.

The Country proudly acknowledges the Virtues of your Father as their Patriot King; and to Your Majesty the example of such a Sire, must be ever dear and valued. Though the great Original is, by the Will of Providence, removed to a better sphere, his memory still lives with You and Your People. In the following Work you may again trace him in the relation of your Sovereign and your Father ; and though the remembrance may wake a sigh, the Splendour of his Deeds, his Sentiments, and Principles, will remain with you for ever, as the most valued Legacy he could bequeath to you.

Honoured as this Work has been with Your Royal Patronage, I am emboldened to entertain the pleasing idea that this humble offering will be deemed neither officious nor impertinent—were such my thoughts, no excess of apology should be wanting on my part. With the most humble submission, I therefore lay it at the feet of Your Majesty, earnestly entreating you will have the condescension to estimate it, not according to the abilities of the writer, but according to the grandeur of his aim.

I have the honour of subscribing myself,

SIR,

Your Majesty's

Most obedient, and very devoted

Servant and Subject,

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

EMPIRES have their origin, their progress, their glory, and their fall, and they who are by Heaven appointed to wield the destinies of Nations, are subject to the same mutations. Death has rioted in our palaces, and the arrow, which flieth by day and by night, has reached its victims: Corruption has claimed its tribute over royalty, and in the shroud now lie the earthly remains of our Monarch; Majesty, however, may pass and be forgotten, when it is unallied with endearing virtues, or it may be remembered with a curse, when it has wielded a despotic sceptre, and clothed itself in terrors; but Majesty, known only as a mild and protecting Providence, is blessed by millions whilst it runs its earthly course, and regretted by succeeding generations when it has been recalled to its native Heaven.

The Historian, in recording the noble deeds of his compatriots,—in enrolling the names of those who have benefited their country by their discoveries,—or who, by their philanthropic acts, have lessened the sum of human misery, feels his breast swell high with pride, that he can call the land his own which gave them birth, and with exultation he calls upon posterity to bless the benefactors which his country has produced; but it is with a trembling hand that he writes the number of the slain in battle, or the private fall of a virtuous man; in the latter case, one of the finest links in the chain of human society is broken, and a chasm is created, which may not be filled during the lapse of centuries. There is a hallowed veil which covers departed virtue, to be lifted only by the delicate hand; and when virtue, in its dearest and fondest relations, accompanies royalty to the tomb, the human mind, pondering on the instability of human happiness, is sunk with grief at the loss which the nation has sustained. George III. now sleeps with his fathers, and another Sovereign already fills the throne of this great Empire; but his memory shall not fade; it is implanted too deeply in the hearts of a whole people to wither beneath the awful visitation; it

had long survived his intellectual death, and will not be affected by the dissolution of his mortal frame.

In the retreat of human calamity, and occupying no public place, except in the memory of a grateful nation, and as the final close must, in the course of events, have been long expected, the demise of his late Majesty constitutes a most memorable epoch, not only in the history of this country, but in the particular lives of the population. How much of mortal happiness has depended upon his example? How much of the fate of nations has hung upon his decisions? How deeply has the past been influenced, and how largely will the future be swayed, by his opinions, his acts, his conduct, as a man and a Monarch. His late Majesty filled a sphere at once glorious and stupendous, never since creation was there an era when so much of good or evil rested on the personal character of a great ruler. New principles started from the increasing light of knowledge, and experiments for weal or woe to mankind resulted according as men were wisely illuminated or dazzled into blindness. In the moral view of his reign, history will ascribe more prodigious power to our departed father, than even to the effects which, in a political sense, have sprung from his rectitude, his firmness, and his genuine piety. Had his late Majesty to that glorious example which he set before his people, not superadded a fixed and noble resistance, alike to sophistry and to menace, instead of being now the foremost country in the world, we should, in all probability, have been a distracted and degraded race, a province of some merciless conqueror, or a prey to more horrid mutual destruction.

With the exception of the sudden decease of his ever-to-be-lamented grand-daughter, never have stronger grounds existed for deeper sympathy, than those which present themselves, when we contemplate the demise of our late beloved Monarch. Were gratitude for the innumerable blessings bestowed by the wisdom and beneficence of our Monarch left out of the question, still what tender and holy interest would dwell round his memory. What blow was it that struck down a mind which neither wars nor danger could bend? Was it disappointed ambition, or the lust of evil passions? No, his affliction was deep, but its source was pure. Paternal love, wounded in its dearest object, a young and favourite daughter, buried his understanding in her tomb; and what more interesting and awful spectacle can present itself than that of a despairing father, in the double solitude of mental affliction and his visual darkness, wandering helpless and forlorn through the apartments of that palace, where in happier times he had spent so many hours of his blameless life. Each day brings forth to the light some additional proofs of his private and public worth. It was in the bosom of his family, and in the discharge of all those sacred duties which grow out of the relations of son, husband, father, brother, and friend, that his primeval virtues were to be traced. The simplicity of his manners, when laying aside the occasionally necessary pomp and dignity of his station, formed a

striking and pleasing contrast with the dignity of his demeanour when seated on the throne of his kingdom.

Nothing indeed could be more reasonable than that the affectionate subjects of the late King should wish him long to live, notwithstanding his malady, for his intellectual failing was much different from that which is called insanity. It was not the prevalence nor the conquering power of any passion over reason, but it was the decay of reason under anxieties of the most painful nature. Upon his innocent and benevolent heart, it was not inflicted to rage with anger, or to pine with melancholy, or to brood with presumptuous discontent over disappointed projects: his mental illness was fatuity. He had not even lost his memory; his mind was full of ideas derived from the habits of his past life; but he had no ideas, at least scarcely any correct ideas from present circumstances, and therefore he had no judgement for present transactions. The images of past scenes, chiefly those of ceremony, or of some gracious intercourse, were continually flitting before his mind's eye, for it was said "that ministering angels were the companions of his thoughts in the loneliness of the circle, by which he was cast off from rational intercourse with this world." He imagined himself in his drawing room or his audience chamber, or preparing for a ride, and by the succession of one scene to another, or by the intervention of some present want or refreshment, he was prevented from finding that his vision was unreal.

If any were hitherto blind to the supereminent excellencies of our late Monarch, both as a king and as a man, let them look around and read them in the tears of his people. He must indeed exceed in goodness, he who in the long enjoyment of sovereign power has erected no other feeling amongst his subjects than that of children towards a benevolent father. Their love followed him through sunshine and through storm: it guarded him in danger, fought for him in battle, stood by him in attempted revolution, and faithful even when he had lost the power of knowing and rewarding fidelity, attended him to the solitary chambers of mental alienation, and now sheds the sincerest tears of sorrow upon his honored remains. What had so dear, so lamented a Monarch done to deserve a degree of attachment so true, so constant, and so universal? What was his character as a man? He was the pride and model of humanity. Born to greatness, he was simple in his tastes, unaffected in his manners, warm and sincere in his affections. His conduct was morality, charity his law, and the welfare of all his unwearied aim. Irreproachable himself, he was indulgent both to the weakness and errors of others. Spotless as a husband, unexcelled as a father, unshaken as a friend, an enlightened and conscientious Christian, he practised what he believed, filled all the relations of life with the tenderest care and most unimpeachable integrity; and walking with his God through all the vicissitudes of a protracted existence, became on earth the image; as he was the anointed minister of the Divinity.

What was his character as a King which he carried to the throne? The exercise of all those virtues which embellished his domestic life; their sphere was extended, but their power unenfeebled. New duties called forth new energies; the mind being clear and expansive, it easily embraced and actively transacted the mighty concerns of this great Empire. A friend to the liberties of the people, he watched with a patriot's care over the integrity of the Constitution, and employed the high authority with which he was invested, not to limit, but to extend and secure its blessings. But while he voluntarily disarmed the crown of some privileges, which less virtuous hands might have abused, he maintained a just and wholesome authority with unbending firmness. A ruler in principles, and love of freedom, as well as in birth, he stood forth the champion of European independence, when anarchy and atheism struck at the very throne, and threatened to level every order of society. Unconquerable in spirit, neither foreign menace nor domestic treason could appal him, nor change his resolution. The shock of events struck, but shook him not. He stood amongst defeated kings and shattered kingdoms, solitary in might as in daring; the wonder of earth, the chosen of heaven. He saw the war-lightning of an usurper blasting the legitimate monarchies of Europe, and crumbling successively at his feet; he saw the patrimony of his fathers wrenched from him by a tyrant; but in the midst of all his calamities, his noble spirit scorned to succumb, but seemed rather to gather additional vigor from the opposition which it met with. Yet in him power did not create ambition. He fought to save, not to conquer. To the glories of war he would have preferred the blessings of an unbroken peace, had peace been consistent with justice, with sympathy, and even with the security of his people; for his mind was formed to enjoy and to impart happiness: called to supreme command in tempestuous times, and compelled to stand the chance of battles, during the greater part of his reign; he was still the monarch of the Scriptures, patriarchal amidst all the dangers, exertions, and turmoils of war. The arts of peace flourished under his care, even where there was no peace. The prospect of trade kept pace with our military and naval glories, and the perfecting of our laws, the improvement of our national condition, and the increase of all that makes nations great and powerful, were carried on with a degree of activity and success, which had never been attained, even in the periods of the most profound tranquillity. Institutions unknown to Greece and Rome, and to the more civilized nations of Europe, rose under the shadow of royal patronage, and in arts and in arms, in domestic comforts and public wealth, in works of useful industry and extent of national greatness, in vigor of administration and a just and merciful application of the laws, the British Empire became a monument of all that is possible for human wisdom, genius, courage, and energy to achieve, with such frail materials as mortal men.

It however seldom happens, that merit and virtue are duly honoured during the life

of their possessor. It is only when death has removed him from the sphere which he blessed and honoured by his presence, that his deserts are fully appreciated and admired. He must indeed have displayed superior brilliance, if he obtained from his contemporaries even a small portion of the praise to which he was entitled. What, therefore, must have been the great and amiable qualities of our departed Monarch, since even during his life they were acknowledged by men of all principles and parties, and formed the theme of universal admiration. They were such as never before invested the throne with greater influence over the hearts of mankind. There was an integrity of character, which gained him at once respect and obedience as a King, love and confidence as a man. In whatever he undertook or allowed, the purity of his motives was never impeached. He might err, for he was human; but not in intention, for he was above the evil passions of humanity. His pleasures partook of the simplicity of his heart; they were innocent recreations in the bosom of his family, where the Monarch vanished in the tender husband and affectionate father. Who could forget, that ever witnessed, the affecting scenes of Windsor Castle, where Monarch and Queen, Princes and Princesses, laying down all the pomp of exalted rank, mixed, walked and moved, among respectful and admiring subjects, as undistinguished members of the great family? Who, when the solemnities of divine service were over, when the peals of the organ still rolled through the lofty aisles of the royal chapel, and shook the banners of national chivalry, who could behold without a feeling of ancient times, and a sentiment of boundless love and veneration, his blessed and aged Monarch leaning on his two elder daughters, and walking in the midst of his people?

After this slight sketch of the character of our late Monarch, is it requisite to account for the depth and universality of our sorrow at his loss. It is true that for years he lay despoiled of reason and of power; but though unseen by our eyes, he was still beloved in our hearts. The idea that he remained amongst us, and that it was still possible that he should awake to the triumph of his cause, and the glories of his country, had in it something of consolation, if not of hope. But the prospect is now dark and desolate, and in the bitterness of our hearts we can only exclaim, that in our King we have lost a father, than whom no mortal being, ever has or ever will descend to the grave better entitled to all the honour that history can bestow, or to the praise or veneration of mankind.

Having thus briefly alluded to the dark side of the picture which the demise of our Sovereign now presents to our view, let us not forget that it has also its bright side, and that one cause of consolation remains for us. Let us not forget that the reign of his successor threatens no change: that George IV. has long trodden in the footsteps of his revered parent; and that administering in his name, through a period of matchless

splendour, he has given us assurance of the future, in experience of the past. It is but a legal or constitutional fiction that the king never dies, for alas! with all their state and majesty, and god-like potency, kings are human, and must submit to the common lot of humanity; but it is a proud and blessed reflection for Britain, that in the present instance, the fiction is almost a reality. The transition is not one accompanied by doubt or fear; we know our king, and we know by what he has done, what he will do. His father's counsellors are his—his father's spirit is before his eyes—his father's precepts are engraven on his heart—and so advised, so inspired, so guided, the Regent has prepared himself for the Monarch; and we have reason to expect a reign of wisdom, of strength, and of honour—of wisdom to lead us through the difficulties of these times—of strength to maintain our exalted station—and of honour to transmit to posterity that glory which has accumulated like a halo round the crown, and those inestimable enjoyments which make the happiness of a people, if rightly understood and wisely employed. With such a successor truly we may say the king has not died; the immortal part of George III. has gone to its immortal reward—he has exchanged a corruptible for an incorruptible crown; his mortal virtues are perpetuated in his illustrious son, our Sovereign George the Fourth.

All of us except the very old, who had ceased to mingle in the affairs or to lead the feelings of society, were born beneath the sceptre of George III.; the whole people of this Country, with still fewer exceptions, were formed and educated since he began to govern. His name and image had identified themselves with our earliest remembrance, and made part of our happiest associations. From tradition only had we any knowledge of the times which preceded him. He was an Heir-loom handed down to us from antiquity. He was the great, the living, almost the sole remnant of our loved forefathers, of that hallowed generation of parents and instructors, who had given us life, and fostered us in infancy, and sowed in our youthful minds the seeds of loyalty and piety, of truth and honour. To us, the offspring of his reign, therefore, the death of an aged Monarch is as if the paternal roof had fallen in, and left our chambers desolate. To other nations, the near and watchful observers of England, it will be as if some towering rock, hoary with time, and hardened by the tempest, some land-mark immemorial had sunk into the earth and changed the bearings of the whole visible horizon.

The work now offered to the Public, aspires to the character of a most authentic and comprehensive detail of the principal incidents, public and domestic, of the Life of his late Majesty. In its composition, the objects in view have been perspicuity and order in the narrative, selection of the most important circumstances, and a strict impartiality exhibited, not only in a fair and ungarbled representation of facts, but in the absence of every kind of colouring which might favour the purposes of what may properly be

denominated Party. It is no crude nor undigested work, got up on the spur of the moment, to catch the interest of the day excited by a particular event; its foundation has been long laid, and those materials have been sought for and obtained, which, like the diamond in the mine, could only have been extracted by incessant labour, and indefatigable perseverance. Curiosity will be excited, and investigation may even be set on foot, to ascertain the channels through which some of the most interesting incidents of the life of his late Majesty recorded in this work have been derived, and which, it may be affirmed with the most positive regard to truth, have not yet transpired beyond the quarter from which they have been communicated; but no threat nor bribe shall ever influence the author to betray that confidence which has been so handsomely reposed in him. He is well aware, as in a former instance of the *Memoirs of the Princess Charlotte*, that several individuals, to whom the secret stores of private anecdote are closed, and who erect their works upon the labour and researches of others, will also in this instance follow him step by step, and palm upon the world all the information, anecdotes, and incidents, which may be found in this work, as exclusively their own, and obtained solely by their own indefatigable industry. It is not for the Author of this work to say with whom he shall, or with whom he shall not compete; to the liberal mind, which scorns to take advantage of another's industry, competition appears in a fair and honourable light; the field of inquiry, the sources of information, are open to all, and he best performs his part who returns home the most heavily laden; but that individual deserves the most marked reprehension and contempt, who, after the gleaner has deposited his store, will slyly steal to the spot, and, having robbed him of the most valuable portion of it, will, in a presumptuous manner, proclaim to the world that by his industry alone was it obtained.

Firm in his own strength, and justly proud of the assistance which has been promised him from a most exalted quarter, in the prosecution of his work, the Author enters the lists of competition in the most fearless manner; he scorns himself to take advantage of the industry of others, standing as he does on the firm basis of authenticity and originality, and therefore, the attempts of others to take advantage of his, will be no sooner detected, than they shall be exposed.

It may be considered necessary, to say a few words on the political character which will distinguish this work. In loyalty to his Monarch, the Author will not yield to any man, but he will not prostitute his pen in eulogising the actions of those, who, because they belong to a particular party, are supposed to be above the commission of an error. The advisers of the crown have, in these times, a tremendous responsibility attached to them; they have hitherto defeated all the machinations of a desperate faction: they have steered the vessel through the most perilous storms, and rampant rebellion has

been crushed by their energy and firmness. It will, however, be manifest, that the compass of the following pages could not afford scope for entering into conjectures relative to the secrets of cabinets, or those discussions concerning the plans of policy that may be supposed to have influenced sovereigns or their ministers, which usually occupy a large space in professed Histories. In reality the great series of human affairs, is directed by a chain of causes and effects, of much superior potency to the efforts of individuals in any station; who, for the most part, are rather the subjects than the rulers of events. It is from the observation of these, and not from an acquaintance with court intrigues and party manoeuvres, that the true Philosophy of History is to be deduced, and the impartial record of leading facts is the grand desideratum for obtaining this important addition to human wisdom. Of such incidents, the period which the present Work embraces, has been singularly fertile and the intelligent reader cannot fail of drawing inferences from them, which will have more value as the product of his own reflections, than as the prompting of an author.

THE
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE
OF
His late Majesty
KING GEORGE THE THIRD.

AMONGST the illustrious families*, who, by their feats in arms, or deeds of patriotism; by their love of the sciences, or their profound knowledge of the polity of nations, have rendered themselves conspicuous on the great stage of Europe, the historian can scarcely point to one of greater celebrity than that of Brunswick. Ignorance or malice may have represented the origin of this most august family to be lost in the dark ages of obscurity, and to be sullied at its source by the feculent stream of plebeian blood; it will, however, be found from the most authentic authorities, that the house of Brunswick, as far as its antiquity is the question, excels the majority of (if not all) the royal families of Europe. There is no sovereign nor illustrious house in Europe, whose memorable actions have been more carefully preserved from oblivion, even from the first dawn of civilization, to its present meridian splendour, than those of the illustrious house of Brunswick.

Its high dignity, its importance, and its anti-

quity, gave rise to this extraordinary care in the transmission of its annals to posterity; and, there is not an action of any consequence which Fame has recorded during many centuries, relative to either war or peace, to the establishment of the happiness of nations, or to the improvement in the arts and sciences, in which some individual of this lineage has not performed an important part. Its antiquity can be traced by the most uncorrupted channels, and in the most regular descent for nearly 1500 years, and some historians have carried it within 200 years of the birth of our Saviour.

A very warm dispute was at one time carried on amongst the learned, whether the Brunswick family were originally Italian or German; and, several writers, amongst whom was Rimius, in his memoirs of the house of Brunswick, have pretended to trace it from the Actii, a noble family in Rome, in the time of Romulus and Tarquinius Priscus, nearly 600 years before the birth of Christ. This, however, may have

* I beg leave to say, that in this history of the Brunswick family, the origin of which is so little known in this country, I have chiefly taken for my guide that most elaborate work, entitled *Origines Guelphicæ*, which was published in the year 1758-59, in the Latin language in Germany, the first volume of which was dedicated to George the II^d., and the second to the reigning duke of Brunswick, as being at that time the head of the family.

arisen from a mere similitude of names, in the same manner as several of the sycophantish writers, in the reign of William III., pretended out of compliment to that monarch, to deduce the house of Nassau from a certain chief among the Belgæ, named Nassovius, mentioned by Cæsar for no other reason, than because some affinity happened to exist between the two names.

The reason of the Guelphic family being considered to be of Italian origin, arose from the circumstance of their ancestors being the German emperor's vicars-general in Italy; but, so far from this reason carrying with it any validity, it operates with a contrary force; for, it appears more agreeable to the sound policy of those times to imagine, that the emperors intrusted the care of the conquered provinces in that country to their own natural-born subjects, and their descendants, rather than to the Italians, remarkable for their treachery, and their hatred of a foreign yoke.

It may, however, be considered as extraneous to enter into an elaborate discussion of the conflicting testimony of the various historians, relative to the very early periods of the Brunswick family, and we shall therefore commence with that epoch when the family began to make a conspicuous figure in Germany. This may be dated from the marriage of Azo the IVth., margrave of Este, who may properly be called the founder of the Brunswick family, with Cunigunda, daughter of Guelph, duke of Bavaria and Carinthia, and heiress of all her father's vast dominions. From this important marriage the princes of the house of Brunswick became, after the emperor, the most distinguished in all Germany. Azo* died in 1097,

and was succeeded by his son Guelph V., surnamed the Valiant. Henry, surnamed the Black, succeeded his brother, and was present at the conferences at Chalons between the emperor Henry V. and pope Paschal II., and whithersoever he went, he had a sword carried before him. He was indefatigable in his endeavours to accommodate the differences between the contending parties, but without success, and dying in 1127, was succeeded by his son Henry, surnamed the Proud.

This prince by his marriage with Gertraut, only daughter of the emperor Lotharius, and in right of her mother, heiress of Brunswick and all Saxony, added those extensive provinces to his other dominions, and raised the grandeur of his family to the highest pitch. The princess Gertraut, or Gertrude, was descended from the glorious and heroic race of the Saxon princes, who flourished for a considerable time before the birth of Christ; and she numbered amongst her ancestors above twenty kings, and no less than six emperors. One of her immediate forefathers was Hengist, who first led the Saxons into England. Hengist was king of Kent, and was succeeded by his elder son Escus; but his younger son Andoacer, or Hartwaker, who signalized himself by his bravery under his father during his wars in Britain, returned to Germany, and there reigned over the Saxons. From him descended Wittekind the Great, the last king and first duke of Saxony, who valiantly resisted the whole force of Charlemagne for many years, with whom he fought seventeen battles; but, being at last finally subdued, the victorious emperor behaved with extreme moderation, for he restored to him the whole of Saxony, with the title of duke, but would not

* Azo was son of Hugo, and grandson of Albert, or Orlbert, margrave of Este. The departure of the last mentioned prince from Italy to Germany with the emperor Otho II., furnished the subject for one of the finest odes which appeared from the pen of the poet laureat of the court of George II.

allow him to enjoy any more the title of king. He gave him also the duchy of Angria in fief, which gifts were bestowed on condition, that he and his family embraced the Christian religion, to which Wittekind submitted, and was baptized about the year 785. Wittekind and his ancestors had always borne a black horse on their coat of armour, and this ensign was also borne by Hengist on his standard when he first landed in Britain in 449; but on account of Wittekind's conversion to christianity, the emperor Charlemagne changed it to a white horse, which is retained to this day in the armorial bearings of our royal family, in memory of their illustrious ancestors. From the above particulars it is very remarkable, that the present royal family are descended from our ancient English kings, long before the Norman race sprung from William duke of Normandy, surnamed the Bastard, and falsely styled the Conqueror, had any footing in this kingdom.

The following boundaries of the territorial possessions of Henry the Proud* will shew the power and influence which the Brunswick family enjoyed at this early period. To the southward, they extended to Verona, in Italy; to the northward, they were bounded by the Danube; to the eastward, by Lower Austria; and to the westward, by the borders of Franconia, where the city of Ulm is situated, and by the Lake of Constance in Suabia. In the year 1136, the emperor Lotharius, his father-in-law, ceded to him the whole Duchy of Saxony, which Henry extended by conquest as far as where the city of Lubeck now stands, and thus he became lord from the Baltic almost to the Mediterranean; his dominions exceeding the

extent of many modern kingdoms; and as a further addition to his grandeur, the emperor, Lotharius dying in 1137, declared him his successor in the imperial dignity, and sent him the crown, sceptre, sword, and other insignia of the emperor.

Lotharius, however, not being beloved by the princes of the empire, they entertained a secret hatred of Henry, on account of his having married the emperor's daughter; and in consequence of their inveterate resentment, they elected Conrad, duke of Suabia, to be emperor, who set on foot the most violent opposition to the claims of Henry, and after various changes of fortune, conspired to have him treacherously poisoned, even whilst a peace was negotiating between them, in the 40th year of his age.

He was succeeded by his only son Henry, surnamed the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, who at the death of his father was only ten years of age: he proved to be one of the most noble and magnanimous princes, not only of his own time, but of centuries before him. It was a most fortunate circumstance for him that Guelph VII., duke of Spoleto, his father's brother, took upon himself the guardianship of his young nephew, a trust which he discharged with the most scrupulous fidelity; and this circumstance deserves to be mentioned as redounding highly to the character of the duke of Spoleto, for the uncles of princes, or even of private individuals, are not accustomed in general to pay much attention to nephews, when they stand next in succession to their dominions, estates, or effects. Henry appeared as a warrior at the early age of eighteen, and his first expedition was against the Veneds or Obotrites, who were at that time in possession of those coun-

* This title, it may be rationally supposed, was given to him by his enemies, and must not be considered as indicative of his character. He is styled *Henricus Superbus*, which may be translated Magnificent with greater propriety than Proud. He is, however, known in history by the appellation of Henry the Proud, and therefore I have retained it.

tries which were afterwards known by the name of the duchies of Mecklenburgh, Pomerania, &c. These people were the grossest idolaters, and the most inhuman persecutors of the christians at that period in Europe. Henry, however, subdued this fierce and sanguinary nation, and granted them peace, on condition that they embraced the christian religion.

The next affair of any consequence in which he was engaged, was in 1155, and in the 26th year of his age, when he accompanied the emperor Frederick, surnamed Barbarossa, to Rome, whither he went to be crowned by the pope, according to the custom of those times. The name of this pope was Adrian IV., the only Englishman who ever filled the pontiff's chair, and whose name, previously to his being elected pope, was Nicholas Breakspear, and was born, it is believed, at St. Albans. Adrian, with the most consummate pride, desired the emperor to hold his stirrup whilst he mounted his horse, from which ignominious service he was dissuaded by Henry; in consequence of which Frederick refused, for a long time, to comply: but it being proved that the emperor Lotharius II., his predecessor, and grandfather to our Henry the Lion, had performed that menial office, he at length submitted. It happened, however, that the emperor laid hold of the wrong stirrup, which greatly incensed the proud Adrian, and he spoke to him with all the authority of the master to his menial. Frederick, however, made this memorable reply: "That he had never been a groom of the stable, and that it was not of any importance to Peter, in honour of whom he performed this service, whether he held the left or the right stirrup." To such a scandalous and intolerable pitch of pride and insolence had their anti-christian Holinesses arrived in those dark ages of the world.

When the emperor arrived at Rome, the Ro-

mans, at the instigation of the pope, attempted to oppose his public entry into that city, and stopped him upon the bridge of the Tiber. Henry, in conjunction with the emperor, fell upon the Romans, and performed prodigies of valour. It happened, however, that in the heat of the engagement, Frederick had advanced too far amongst them, when, being surrounded, his life was despaired of. On this desperate occasion, the gallant young Henry rushed among the enemy, and fortunately rescued the emperor, whilst he lay in the most imminent danger under the horses' feet. Above 1,100 Romans were killed in this rencontre, and Henry received a severe wound in his face; the blood gushed out, which Frederick wiped off—called him his saviour, his deliverer, and promised that during life, he would not forget the danger to which he had exposed himself on his account. In consideration of this service, Frederick conferred on Henry the power of founding bishopricks, and of appointing and investing bishops, which in those days was of very great consequence.

Frederick, however, on his return to Germany, considered himself under the obligation to see Bavaria restored to Henry. This duchy had been, from the time of his infancy, in the hands of Henry Jasemergot, Margrave of Austria, who had married his mother Gertraut; but he ceded it to Henry the Lion, in consequence of a decree passed at the Diet of Ratisbon, and he received as an equivalent the duchy of Austria.

Henry, thus coming again into possession of his paternal states, soon after accompanied Frederick in his expedition into Italy against the city of Milan, and several other places in Lombardy, which had revolted against him, but which were brought again under his subjection. Milan was ordered to be burnt, but on the

intercession of Henry, it was at that time saved.

Henry did not remain with the emperor until the end of the expedition, for on hearing that the Veneds had broken the truce made with them, and had taken up arms under the conduct of their king Riclotus, he hastened back to Germany, and maintained a glorious war with that fierce and uncivilized people, from 1159 to 1164. Having wholly subdued them, he turned his arms against the dukes of Pomerania, who had secretly assisted the Veneds, contrary to their open assurance; but the generals of Henry severely punished them for their treachery, and obliged them to pay a yearly tribute.

Henry was now at the height of honor and glory; the fame of his great actions had reached the ears of Emanuel I., the Greek emperor, who sent ambassadors to congratulate him on his glorious exploits, and to solicit his friendship. His government was highly prosperous to his subjects; in his disposition he was modest and grave, a terror to offenders, but beloved by the innocent and good. Yet, notwithstanding all this moderation, a number of enemies started up, and at length a conspiracy was formed against him by several German princes. The advantages which he gained in this war were great, but it ended, after a continuance of two years, through the interposition of the emperor Frederick, in 1168.

Henry at this time caused a lion to be cast in brass, with his mouth open, to signify that those who attacked him should be treated with as little mercy as a lion would treat his enemies. This lion was put up at Brunswick, opposite the castle of Danouerde, where it remains to the present day.

The same year Henry married Matilda, or Maud, elder daughter of Henry II. king of

England, which matrimonial alliance had been procured for him by the influence of the emperor Frederick, who yet remained his grateful friend.

In the year 1171, Henry, from the spirit of devotion, undertook a journey to the Holy Land. His retinue consisted of about 1000 people, composed chiefly of his own relatives, friends, and vassals, but the ship on which they embarked ran foul of a rock in the Danube, and Henry saved himself with great difficulty on a piece of floating timber. They then pursued their journey by land, and in passing Belgrade, were attacked by four gangs of robbers at one time. Henry's party killed above 200 of them, and dispersed the remainder. He then passed through Adrianople, and was met at some distance from Constantinople by the officers of the emperor Emanuel, who were commissioned to conduct him to the palace. The emperor received him in a most magnificent manner, and having rested for some days, he embarked for Acre, formerly called Ptolemais, in the Holy Land; and, after weathering a most violent storm, safely arrived there. The Knights Templar conducted him from thence to Jerusalem, where he was received by Almeric, the king of Jerusalem. Henry sojourned there 62 days, and having visited every remarkable place, he made his offerings to the cross, according to the custom of the times, and bestowed 1000 marks upon those who guarded the holy sepulchre.

On his return home, Henry narrowly escaped several dangers from the Saracens. He passed again through Constantinople, when the Greek emperor gave him many instances of his high esteem, loaded him with presents, and conducted him several leagues from his capital. Henry continued his journey through Hungary into Bavaria, and met the emperor Frederick at

Augsburg, with whom he remained a few days; thence departing for Saxony, he arrived safely at Brunswick, having been absent rather more than twelve months, during which time he had travelled nearly 500 leagues.

His reputation for valor and prudent conduct was now so firmly established, that his enemies, (for where is merit without them?) despairing to effect his downfall by force of arms, had recourse to the basest treachery to alienate the friendship and good opinion of the emperor from him, and in which they eventually succeeded. They likewise procured some of their emissaries to insinuate to Henry that the emperor, during his absence in the Holy Land, had endeavoured to deprive him of his dominions, and that he had even laid several snares to destroy him upon the road, whilst pursuing his dangerous journey. These reports, however, failed in making their expected impression on the noble mind of Henry, who scorned to doubt of the emperor's integrity, for his soul was in its nature too grand to admit suspicion for a moment to reside in it. His enemies being thus foiled and disappointed in their schemes, repaired to the emperor; and, although they were themselves the fabricators of these scandalous reports, they laid them to the charge of Henry, in order to lessen the emperor's regard for him, on account of his suspecting his honor.

Whilst these things were in agitation, the cities of Lombardy again revolted at the desire of Pope Alexander the Third, who excommunicated the emperor. Henry generously went to Italy to his assistance, and on his arrival, the condition of the emperor was so low, that he begged him for God's sake to succour him, and the emperor would even have fallen on his knees before him, had not Henry prevented the humiliation.

It is a curious fact in the history of the house

of Brunswick, that the journey of Henry to Italy was the cause of the foundation of the electorate of Hanover, since then erected into a kingdom, and now under the government of the king of Great Britain.

Henry had not been long in Italy before the storm, which had been for some time gathering, begun to break forth; an express was received from Saxony that the Veneds had gathered in a body, and had made irruptions into his dominions, which they pillaged, burnt, and laid waste without distinction, and with unheard-of depredation. On this occasion Henry was under the necessity of returning home, contrary to the desire of the emperor, in order to defend his own dominions, and he soon succeeded in repelling the enemy. The bridge at Munich in Bavaria was finished by this prince in 1177, which was begun by his father in 1125.

The emperor had by this time finished his unfortunate expedition to Italy, the ill success of which was entirely attributed to Henry, and Frederick's forgetting his former promises of an eternal friendship, inflicted such a terrible vengeance for the supposed injury, as can scarcely find a parallel in history.

A diet was appointed at Ratisbon in 1180, but Henry was apprized of it, and that those who were to be his judges, were at the same time to be his accusers, on which account he refused to appear, and protested against the proceedings of the diet, but no regard whatever was paid to this protest. His enemies laid several imaginary grievances to his charge; some appeared, who positively asserted that he was the murderer of Thomas à Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, though it was well known that Henry until that period had never been in England, and consequently could not have been an accessory to the fact; and lastly, he was arraigned on a charge of high treason

by the emperor, in having forsaken and abandoned him in Lombardy, although he well knew that his enemies, by exciting the Veneds, had rendered that step imperative upon him. Henry was therefore placed by the emperor under the ban of the empire*.

In consequence of this terrible sentence, the dominions of Henry were occupied by the first person who thought proper to seize upon them. The event of this affair was, that although Henry left nothing undone which a brave and valiant man could perform, and although whoever presumed to attack him, found ample employment for their swords, yet in the end, he was stripped of almost all his possessions. Not less than seventeen princes of the empire, both temporal and ecclesiastical, joined in this unjust enterprize, and divided as many provinces amongst them, as would have made several kingdoms. The present kingdoms of Bavaria and Saxony, the duchy of Holstein and Westphalia, since incorporated with other states, formed a part of Henry's dominions, and by their villanies the illustrious ancestor of George III. was plundered in a manner unprecedented*.

Henry, oppressed by his enemies, consented at last to a three years' exile, and he chose England as the place of his residence. This event took place in 1182. In 1184 he resided at Winchester, at which place his princess Maud, or Matilda, was delivered of her young-

est son William, surnamed Longsword; who may be considered as the immediate ancestor of his late majesty George III.

On his return from exile, his enemies sought his friendship, and he was named as a candidate for the imperial throne, when the emperor Henry VI., son of Frederick, was confined by illness in Italy. The posterity of Henry has flourished from one age to another to this day. One of his sons became Emperor of Germany, and the descendant of his youngest son, William, born at Winchester, now, by divine providence, rules over this kingdom, where his great ancestor was obliged to take refuge from the rage and malice of his enemies in the court of Henry II. of England, his father-in-law, about 580 years ago.

The origin of the three lions on the armorial bearings of our royal family, is to be traced to this period. Richard I., of England, the uncle of Henry, had five leopards, or lions, in his coat of arms, two of which he gave to his nephew, and kept three. Henry added them to his arms, and they are now borne by the house of Brunswick to this day.

Henry died at Brunswick in 1195, and in the 66th year of his age. He left three sons, Henry the Long—Otho, who was chosen Emperor of Germany by the name of Otho IV., on the death of Henry VI.: he was likewise Earl of York; and William, surnamed Longsword; the latter

* The ban of the empire is analogous to our outlawry. They who had the misfortune to be put under it lost all their dominions, their houses, and their life. The rigor of it extended even to ecclesiastics, with this difference only, that on account of the sacredness of their order, their life was spared.

† The memorable partition of so many fine provinces, was the origin of the picture at present in the possession of George IV., as King of Hanover, and the decyphering of which has puzzled many antiquaries. It represents a mettlesome horse, on one side of which appear several ravenous beasts, signifying the secular princes who invaded Henry's property, and on the other side as many birds of prey, denoting his ecclesiastical enemies. Each of them has a part of the mangled horse in his mouth; one the head—the other the foot—a third the tongue—a fourth a leg—a fifth an eye—a sixth the milt—a seventh a horse-shoe, &c.—nothing remained but the heart, which signified Brunswick and Lunenburg, the only countries which were saved, and now forming the kingdom of Hanover.

being his late majesty's immediate and direct ancestor, his history falls within the immediate scope of this work ; the lives and histories of the collateral and other branches of the family being foreign to the purpose. He obtained the appellation of Longsword, from either wearing or having carried before him a sword of an immense size. He was one of the hostages for King Richard of England, at the court of Leopold Duke of Austria, who voluntarily set him at liberty. He was the only one of three brothers who left male issue, and dying in 1213 was succeeded by his only son Otho, whom he had by Helen, daughter of Waldemar, King of Denmark.

Otho, surnamed the Infant, either on account of his little stature, or to distinguish him from his uncle, Otho, the emperor, was no more than fifteen years of age at his father's death : he, however, proved to be a prince of most superior endowments, and was the ornament of his race and society. He was the first duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, that title having been given to him by the Emperor Frederick II. on account of Otho having espoused his cause against the pope, during the absence of the emperor in the Holy Land. The Brunswick family at this period dropped the title of Dukes of Saxony and Bavaria.

The Prussians at this time were heathens, and their barbarity was so enormous, that they

took delight in dashing the brains of the christian children against the walls, and driving their parents, like beasts, into slavery. The knights of the Teutonic order*, then famous for their bravery throughout the world, were invited by Conrad, Duke of Masovia in Poland, where these barbarous people had burnt 250 churches, to his assistance. Hermon de Seltza, grand master of the order, persuaded Otho to accompany him in this meritorious undertaking, which he accordingly did in 1237. Otho, by a master-stroke of generalship, defeated the Prussians, and brought their territory under the subjection of the Teutonic order. He married his daughter Elizabeth to the Emperor William, and died in 1252, leaving issue four sons : Albert, who was Duke of Brunswick, and John, Duke of Lunenburg ; and this was the principal division which took place in the house of Brunswick. Otho and Conrad, the two younger sons were made bishops.

Albert, the eldest son of Otho, was surnamed the Great, on account of his courage. He began his reign during the great interregnum of the empire, and supported with all his interest his near kinsman Richard, Earl of Cornwall, younger son of John, and brother of Henry III., King of England, and by his influence and courage placed him on the imperial throne of Germany. Richard maintained his ground for two years, but perceiving the confused state

* The Teutonic order, like the Knights Templar, had its origin in the Holy Land in 1190, and, like them, was instituted to protect the pilgrims, and fight against the enemies of the cross. The knights of this order slept upon straw, without any covering, and no more than a pillow was allowed them to lay their heads upon. They practiced great abstemiousness, and observed the strictest celibacy, not being permitted to salute even their own mother. The first knights were principally Germans, from which the order was called Teutonic, from the word Teutonis, by which name the ancient Germans were distinguished. After the loss of the Holy Land, they retired to Venice, and thence they were called by the Poles to their assistance against the barbarities of the Prussians. Fifty years and upwards passed before the Prussians were entirely conquered, and during that period sixteen expeditions were undertaken by different christian nations, who came to the assistance of the Teutonic knights, and for the most part settled in Prussia : and from this motley crew and mixture of nations, are descended the present Prussians, who now make so conspicuous a figure on the political stage of Europe.

of Europe, he returned to his native country.

Albert fought the memorable battle against Bela, king of Hungary, who disputed the succession of the duchy of Austria with the king of Bohemia. The enemy had an army of 200,000 men; Albert had scarcely half that number, yet he engaged them, and the two armies fought for nine days successively, without intermission. Bela was at last taken prisoner, and Albert pursued the fugitives, and drove nearly 13,000 into the river Moraw. Albert was only sixteen years of age when he performed this celebrated action.

Albert died in 1729, and left behind him the character of a valiant, eloquent, and prudent prince. He left issue six sons. The three younger entered the Teutonic order, and the three elder divided his estates, and founded three lines. Henry, who was surnamed the Wonderful, at Grubenhagen, which line subsisted 317 years, and became extinct in 1596. Albert, surnamed the Gross, or Fat, at Göttingen: and William, who died without issue, at Brunswick; after whose death, the two elder brothers disputed the succession with each other; but the inhabitants unanimously declaring themselves for Albert, he took possession of that city, and from him all the princes of the house of Brunswick are descended. Albert died in 1318, and left seven sons by his wife Ricca, daughter of Henry prince of Gustrow, in Mecklenburgh.

Otho, his eldest son, surnamed the Liberal, succeeded his father at Brunswick, and dying without male issue, in 1344, he was succeeded in that duchy by his brother Magnus, surnamed the Pious. Magnus was in great esteem with the emperor Lewis, whose cause he heartily espoused against the pope. He lived to 1368, and left three sons; Lewis, who had Lunen-

burgh for his share, and died without issue; Magnus II., and Albert, who succeeded to the archbishoprick of Bremen. He was, however, nearly losing his archiepiscopal see, by a very singular incident. Although a virtuous man, he had a number of enemies, amongst whom was one Zesterflete, who was dean of Bremen, and who wished to supplant Albert in his office. The dean fell upon the singular expedient of circulating a report that Albert was an hermaphrodite, and the tale was actually believed to be true. The archbishop gave orders for the apprehension of the dean, but he escaped. The report, however, still gained credit, and the archbishop was obliged, either to vacate his see, or to expose himself naked in the most public place of Bremen. He chose the latter, and actually appeared before the assembled population of Bremen, in a state of complete nudity. The calumny was thereby refuted, and the dean was deprived of his ecclesiastical dignities.

Magnus II., surnamed Torquatus, from a gold or silver chain which he wore about his neck, succeeded his father at Brunswick. But his character was very dissolute. He, however, had the good fortune to lay the foundation for the recovery of the duchy of Saxe Lunenburg, which took its rise from the following curious circumstance. He was one day playing at draughts with Erich, at that time duke of Saxe Lunenburg, and the game was a drawn one, each having only one king on the board. Having moved their king backwards and forwards for some time, neither being willing to relinquish the victory, it was proposed by Magnus, by way of settling the important point, that a solemn compact should be entered into between them, that upon the extinction of either of their houses, the surviving family should succeed the other in its possessions.

The posterity of Erich failed in 1689, when George William, duke of Zell, inherited that duchy.

Magnus Torquatus soon after finished his days in a most unfortunate manner. Otho, count of Schoumburg, having married the widow of Lewis, brother to Magnus, a quarrel arose between them from the following cause. His equipage being attacked on the road, some domestics belonging to Magnus were charged with it, and this gave occasion to a disturbance. Both parties took up arms, and a battle ensued between them near the Leine: Magnus, who was by no means deficient in courage, engaged Otho personally, and unsaddled him, on which he alighted from his horse with a design of taking him prisoner. The count lay groveling on the ground, and whilst Magnus was examining whether he were dead or alive, one of the count's soldiers came up, and in the most cowardly manner pierced him through the body. This happened, in 1377. He left four sons: Frederick, afterwards emperor of Germany; Bernhard, who continued the line; and Henry and Otho.

Frederick the elder son of Magnus Torquatus, succeeded his father in 1373, and on the deposition of the emperor Wincelaus for his scandalous behaviour, he was unanimously chosen emperor of Germany. He may with justice be called the Titus Vespasian of the German empire; but not long after his election he was assassinated by a gang of ruffians in Hesse, on his return to Brunswick, at the instigation of Henry count of Waldec, and the bishop of Mentz. Dying without issue in 1400, he was succeeded by his two brothers Bernhard and Henry, who reigned jointly for nine years, but afterwards they made a partition; Henry had Brunswick, where his posterity remained till 1634; Bernhard possessed Lunenburg for his share, and continued the line. This was the

second principal division in this family. Bernhard was a warlike prince, and he caused a piece of ordnance of an extraordinary size to be cast, which was called the *Faule Mette*; it weighed nine tons, discharged a ball above 16 cwt., and required 52 lbs. of powder to load it. This remarkable piece is preserved in the arsenal of Brunswick. He died in 1434, leaving two sons Otho and Frederic, who both succeeded him in their turns.

Otho was much beloved on account of his impartial love of justice, and dying without issue in 1445, he was succeeded by his brother Frederick, surnamed the Pious.

Frederick the Pious had a natural propensity to great and good actions; he used to say, that it was beneath the dignity of a man to live to himself alone, and that none should neglect any opportunity of being serviceable to his fellow-creatures. He was taken prisoner in assisting the inhabitants of Munster against the encroachments of their archbishops, and his captivity lasted for a considerable time before he was ransomed. He then retired to a monastery, giving up the government of his states to his son Bernard II. This prince ruled for five years, and died without issue in 1464. He died in 1471, in the 32d year of his age, and was succeeded by his only son Henry, who being under age, his grandfather Henry the Pious was obliged to quit his convent, and resume the regency, in which he continued to his death, which happened in 1478. Henry, surnamed the younger, was no more than ten years of age when his grandfather Frederick died; his mother, who was Ann, daughter of John count of Nassau, kept the administration till he came of age. The beginning of his reign was auspicious, the middle and end were unfortunate; for, entering into an alliance with John bishop of Hildesheim, who was then en-

gaged in a war with duke Erich, and his nephew Henry of the line of Wolfenbuttel, he gave umbrage to the emperor Charles V., who was the bishop's enemy. Henry was consequently put under the ban of the empire; but to prevent the effects of it, he surrendered his dominions to his sons, and retired to France in 1521, where he resided till 1527, when he returned to Germany. The ban was repealed in 1530, and he died two years after in 1532. By Margaret daughter of Ernest, elector of Saxony, he had three sons; Otho, who founded the line of Harburg, which became extinct in 1642; Ernestus, who founded that of Zell, and Francis of the line of Giffhorn, who died without male issue.

Ernestus distinguished himself from all his predecessors, on being the first of his family who embraced the Protestant religion. When his father Henry was put to the ban of the empire, Otho as his elder son should have succeeded to the chief government of the duchy of Lunenburg, but contenting himself with Harburg, he ceded his right to Ernestus, which was attended with circumstances of the most important nature; for, on his being present at the diet of Worms, to which the emperor Charles V. had summoned Luther in the year 1521, he embraced the Protestant religion, and adopted also the most effectual means of introducing it into his dominions. His brothers Otho and Francis followed his example by turning Protestants, not from worldly motives, but from the sincerest conviction of the truth and purity of the reformed religion. He was most indefatigable in his zeal for the Protestant cause, which evidently tended to undermine his health, and he was himself so convinced of it, that to express his industry, he chose the emblem of a burning candle, with the Latin motto "I serve others, whilst I consume myself." He died in

a state of complete exhaustion, in the 48th year of his age, in 1546. He had four sons by Sophia, daughter of Henry duke of Mecklenburgh.

Francis Otho, his elder son succeeded, who reigned but a short time, and died without issue. Frederick, his second son was killed at the battle of Sivershausen; Henry, who founded the present house of Brunswick Wolfenbuttel, and William the younger son, who founded the line of Lunenburg, from whom came the present royal family of Great Britain. Thus Providence seems to have distinguished the posterity of this good prince Ernest the Confessor, for the extraordinary zeal which he had displayed in the promotion of the Protestant religion, by elevating him to the highest pitch of human grandeur; to which may be added, that as five other branches of the family failed, that of Ernest was the only one that remained; and he was not only the first Protestant of his house, but likewise the patriarch and father of all the princes of the house of Brunswick now existing in Europe.

William of Lunenburg died in 1592, leaving issue fifteen children, seven sons, and eight daughters, by Dorothy, daughter of Christian III., king of Denmark. On account of the prudence and moderation with which he governed his subjects, he obtained the epithets of the Pious, the Just, and the Pacific.

History has now to record one of the most extraordinary acts to be found in its annals, and which was committed by the seven sons of William the Pious, viz., Ernest, Christian, Augustus, Frederick, Magnus, George, and John. Being resolved to keep up the splendour of their house, they came to an agreement that but one of them should marry; that the elder should have the sole regency of the Lunenburg dominions, and be succeeded by the next surviving brother. They adhered to this brotherly com-

fact with great exactness, to the admiration of all Europe. This being so new and extraordinary an act, was reported to Achmet, emperor of the Turks, who, on hearing it, expressed great surprise, and said, "It was well worth the trouble to undertake a journey on purpose, to be an eye-witness of such wonderful unanimity." The seven brothers having drawn lots who should marry, it fell to George the sixth brother, who immediately entered the married state, and continued the line. The four elder succeeded each other, but the three younger died before it came to their turn to reign.

George proved a most valiant prince, and behaved with great bravery, in the wars of Germany, under his elder brother. He married Ann Eleanor, daughter of Lewis, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt, by whom he had four sons, Christian Lewis, who succeeded his uncle Frederick; George William, the former duke of Zell. He was one of the most accomplished and valiant princes in all Europe. King William III. entertained the greatest friendship and regard for him, and honoured him with the most noble order of the garter. He left issue only one daughter, Sophia Dorothy, who married his nephew George Lewis, elector of Brunswick Lunenburg, afterwards king of Great Britain. John Frederick, third son of George, died without male issue. Ernest Augustus was the younger son. George, the father of them, died in 1641.

Ernest Augustus was only twelve years of age at the decease of his father. He discovered an early propensity to learning, which was considerably improved by travelling into Holland, France, Spain, Italy, and over the greater part of England. He laid the foundation for the grandeur which is at this time enjoyed by his illustrious descendants. In the year 1692, on account of his superior merit, he obtained the

electoral dignity, but his principal felicity consisted in his marriage with the princess Sophia, daughter of Frederick, elector Palatine, and Elizabeth, only daughter of James I., king of England, which happy alliance proved the means of confirming the crown of these realms to his posterity. He died in 1698, and was succeeded by his elder son George Lewis, who, on the death of Queen Anne, in 1714, by virtue of several acts of parliament to secure the crown in the protestant line, ascended the throne of Great Britain. He died at Osnaburg, June 11, (O.S.), 1727, and was succeeded by his only son George II.

George II. was married at Hanover, August 22, 1705, to Wilhelmina Carolina, daughter of John Frederick, Marquis of Brandenburg Anspach, by Eleanor Erdmuth Louisa, his second wife, daughter to John George, duke of Saxe Eisenach. She was crowned with his majesty October 11, 1737, and had issue four sons and five daughters. First; Frederick Lewis, the father of our late revered monarch, born January 20, 1706. Second; Anne, princess of Rouge, born October 22, 1709. Third; Amelia Sophia, born May 30, 1711. Fourth; Carolina Elizabeth, born May 30, 1713. Fifth; William Augustus, duke of Cumberland, born April 15, 1721. Sixth; Mary, born February 22, 1723. Seventh; Louisa, born December 7, 1724. A prince dead-born, November 9, 1716. George William, duke of Gloucester, born November 2, 1717, who died February 6, 1718.

When we consider how much we are indebted to the Protestant succession in his Majesty's royal family, we cannot be too anxious for the support of that royal dignity, and the propagation of the royal blood. George II. ascended the throne accompanied with the pleasing prospect, that no chance existed of a failure in the Protestant line. The royal progeny became the

children of the people, and by George II. we received a race of princes, formed under his immediate care, and succeeding in his right to be the guardians of our Constitution. When he ascended the throne, seven of his children were living to secure the succession in his line. He beheld two princes, his sons, the favourites of his people, and the securities of his throne, and five princesses, from whom a large accession of strength to the Protestant cause might be naturally supposed to emanate.

The dispositions of George II. were by no means of a conciliating or forgiving nature, and the youthful follies of the prince of Wales often exposed him to the severe animadversions of his royal parent. The prince had been often importuned to select a princess from one of the reigning families of Germany, who might be considered worthy to share with him the throne of England. But whether it arose from a secret attachment, or a dislike to the matrimonial state, all proposals of marriage were rejected; and, this obstinacy on the part of the prince, served to alienate the affections of his royal parent, and sowed the seeds for that extraordinary behaviour which in a short time displayed itself.

His majesty relinquishing all hopes of effecting a change in the resolution of the prince of Wales, directed his thoughts seriously to the marriage of the other branches of his family. The princess royal was at this time the third in succession to the crown, and the nation therefore felt a sacred interest in her fortunes. A treaty of marriage was entered into with one of the princes of the house of Anspach; but, from political motives, or, more properly speaking, from a more advantageous match presenting itself, it was not carried to a conclusion. It is certain that George II. had his emissaries in the various courts of Europe, who were com-

missioned to transmit to him a faithful report of the qualifications, mental and personal, of the different princes of the German houses, with whom an alliance with his elder daughter might be considered desirable. The princess royal was, however, not destined to be the bride of a German prince, for her hand was demanded in marriage by the prince of Orange; and this alliance was considered to be attended with so many private and political advantages, that a treaty was immediately entered into, and, on the 8th of May 1733, the intended marriage was communicated by his majesty to both houses of parliament, in the following message:—

GEORGE, R.

His majesty having received from the prince of Orange, proposals for a treaty of marriage between the princess royal and the said prince; and his majesty having been pleased favourably to accept the instances made by the prince; his highness has sent over a minister instructed and authorized with full powers to treat of, and conclude the articles of marriage: his majesty has therefore thought it proper to communicate this important affair to this house; and, as he makes no doubt but this marriage will be to the general satisfaction of all his good subjects, he promises himself the concurrence and assistance of this house, in enabling him to give such a portion to his eldest daughter, as shall be suitable to the present occasion, and may contribute towards supporting, with honour and dignity, an alliance that will tend so much to the further security of the Protestant succession to the crown of these realms, and to the Protestant interest in Europe.

Both houses met on the following day, and voted an address to his Majesty; his answer to that from the lords was as follows:—

MY LORDS,

I thank you for this mark of your affection to me and my family: it is a great satisfaction to me to find that the intended marriage between my daughter and the prince of Orange is so agreeable to you.

You may be assured, that I shall make the preserva

tion of the liberties of my people my chief concern and care.

The marriage being determined on, another message was sent by his majesty to parliament, calling upon it to grant a dowry of 80,000*l.* to the princess royal, which gave rise in the house of lords to one of the most animated debates recorded in the annals of parliament. It arose from the circumstance, that the grant to the princess royal should have been brought before parliament by a separate bill, and not included in a bill which was then passing through the house, granting to his majesty various sums for charitable purposes, amongst which, one was for repairing a dormitory. This gave rise to some rather coarse witticisms; as the dowry to a princess on her marriage, and the repair of a dormitory, had something in their combination which could not fail to excite the ribaldry and sneers of those who were most violent in their opposition to the manner in which the bill had been sent from the commons. Lord Winchelsea happily termed it the hotchpotch bill, and designated it as the last sweepings of the lower house. The duke of Newcastle defended the measure; and, which was by no means an uncommon case on all matters in which his grace interfered, he sharpened the opposition against him, by declaring that the 80,000*l.* were not to be paid from the public purse, but from money belonging to his majesty from the sale of lands in St. Nevis and Christopher's. Here then the opposition declared was a gross indignity offered to the house; a number of items were huddled in a bill, some of which were to be paid from the public purse, and one from the private property of his majesty. Strong however as were the arguments used by the opposers to the bill as it then stood, it was ultimately carried, and the 80,000*l.* were granted as the marriage portion of the princess royal.

On the arrival of the prince of Orange in England, addresses from various quarters were presented to him, and the Dutch merchants in particular waited upon him in a body, to congratulate their illustrious countryman on his arrival, and his approaching nuptials. A sudden illness which seized him in the Dutch church, protracted the nuptials, and rendered a visit to Bath advisable for the recovery of his health. On Thursday the 14th of March 1734, the marriage was solemnized with the greatest possible splendour. The princess of Orange remained in England until the following November, during which time, her pregnancy was formally announced. It is rather singular, that the same dislike was manifested by the princess of Orange to accompany her prince to Holland, which at a future time was manifested by the late princess Charlotte, and which was one of the causes of the rupture of her alliance with the prince of Orange. It was, indeed, so strong on the part of the princess of Orange, that the prince returned to Holland without her; but as her pregnancy had been announced, and it being contrary to the law of Holland, that a branch of the reigning house of Nassau should be born in a foreign country, the princess at last consented to join her husband, and she arrived at Calais in the month of December, where she was met by the prince, who conducted her with great pomp to the Hague.

On this occasion, the king of France with his own hand wrote a most obliging letter to George II., thanking his majesty for the honour done him in allowing the princess royal of Great Britain, to take her passage through part of France; assuring his majesty at the same time of a safe conduct of her royal highness, and of all the honours due to so excellent a princess.

A pleasing anecdote, connected with the royal

marriage, is related of Mrs. Harris, a Quaker, who at that time was celebrated for her skill in needlework. She was introduced to the queen for the purpose of presenting her with two richly wrought caps of extraordinary fineness, designed for the Princess of Orange as part of her child-bed linen. In the seams of that designed for a prince was worked :

As Providence to glorious William gave
These happy nations, which he came to save;
Still may kind Heaven, with royal honours bless
His princely race; and send us large increase.

Other verses were in the cap designed for a princess. She delivered them with the following address to her majesty

" May it please the queen.

" A faithful subject of thine, and one of those called Quakers, a people who have distinguished themselves by their love to thy family, have been excited by the happy marriage of that amiable princess, thy eldest daughter, with the prince of Orange, to shew that the pleasing thoughts of it remained with her many days. I have, O queen, with my own hands, (though I am more than sixty-four years of age), wrought this linen, which I have taken the liberty to present to thy royal hand. I beseech thee suffer thy grand-child to wear it, and may the Almighty, who has made thee mother of many children, make them and their children comforts to thee, and to thy people, so prays thy humble but faithful subject,

MARY HARRIS."

The worthy Quaker's hopes were however frustrated, for Dr. Douglas, the celebrated accoucheur of that period, and who attended the princess of Orange for several months in Holland, declared, in 1735, that her royal highness was not with child. His majesty granted him a pension of 500*l.* a year.

In the early part of 1737, his majesty visited his German dominions, leaving the queen regent; and although the situation of Hanover was the ostensible cause, yet it was privately known that his visit had a reference to the mar-

riage of the prince of Wales, as the most favourable reports had been transmitted to his majesty of a princess of the house of Saxe Gotha, and he was resolved to have ocular evidence of her qualifications for the future queen of Great Britain.

The actions of George II. were in many instances marked with a strong degree of eccentricity. Although of a gloomy and morose nature, partaking much of the phlegmatic character of his country, he at times adopted that line of conduct, which not only savoured strongly of Quixotism, but had all the appearance of frivolity, and cunning. In Schmidt's *Geschichte der Deutschen*, (History of the Germans), the following account is given of the visit of a duke of Cornwall to the court of Saxe-Gotha. This duke of Cornwall was, however, no other personage than George II., who, in order to accomplish his views, and to lull all suspicion of his actual birth, on account of his aptitude in the German language, so unusual in an Englishman, pretended that family differences had obliged him to take up his abode in Germany, where he had then resided for a considerable length of time. No suspicion whatever was entertained of the royal personage, and during his residence at this court, he lost no opportunity of studying the character of the princess Augusta. The following anecdote is related of him, in the above-mentioned work. He was one evening dancing with the princess Augusta, and in the course of conversation, he inquired if she felt any inclination to visit England. The princess replied, that there was not any country which she had a greater desire to see. Then you shall see it, said his majesty, and I will exact one promise from you, that at the first ball which you grace with your presence in England, you will do me the honour to accept of me as your partner, even if the king of Eng-

land should demand you. The king of England, by all accounts received of him, said the princess, had rather smoke his pipe, than dance with the most beautiful princess of the empire. The mock duke felt rather disconcerted at this unexpected answer of the princess, and on the following day he took his leave, resolving on his return to propose her in marriage to his son.

In the absence of the king, the queen regent, whose influence over the prince of Wales was unbounded, had employed every argument which affection, or state policy could invent, to induce his royal highness to marry, as it would be the principal means of healing those family differences which then so unhappily existed between his royal father and himself; and the queen so worked upon the feelings of the prince, whose dispositions were in themselves most amiable, that she in the end obtained his consent to the marriage, which she knew it was the intention of his father to propose to him.

On Thursday the 12th of February 1736, the ceremony was performed in the privy council, of proposing to his royal highness the prince of Wales, a marriage with the princess of Saxe-Gotha; two of the members of that right honourable board carried his majesty's message to his royal highness in his apartment, and his royal highness answered, that he could not be but extremely well pleased with whatever his majesty proposed.

In regard to the family of Saxe-Gotha, from which sprang the mother of his late majesty, the following is an authentic memoir:

Ernest, surnamed the *Pious*, was the ninth son of John, duke of Weimar, and was the founder of the house of Saxe-Gotha. On his accession to the government in 1640; he found his country desolated by a long and bloody war, and the people plunged into the grossest ignorance, from the total neglect of all instruc-

tion, moral and religious. His first care was, therefore, to reform the church, and to establish schools for the education of the lower classes. He ordered, under severe penalties, that all persons should send their children to these schools, as soon as they were five years of age; and such was the success of his regulations, that it became a common saying, that the boors of Thuringia were better educated than the gentry of other countries. By his command, Seckendorf undertook his voluminous and valuable history of Lutheranism, for which the duke supplied him with manuscript materials and documents. This work, which is written in Latin, furnishes a complete history of the rise and progress of the Reformation in all the countries of Europe. Ernest likewise formed the plan and defrayed the expense of publishing the Bible with notes, composed by as many able protestant writers as there are books in the Old and New Testament, which has always been held in high esteem, under the denomination of the "Weimar Bible."

The duke was particularly solicitous that the cures and schools should be supplied with ministers and masters properly qualified for those situations. He always carried about with him a list of them both, and would visit them familiarly in his journeys. One day, in passing through a village, he entered the minister's house, inspected his library, and perceiving his Bible covered with dust, he put a gold ducat at the beginning of the book of Revelations, unobserved by the divine. The following year he paid another visit to the same priest, and inquired concerning his method of reading the sacred volume. The minister told his highness, that it was his practice to read over the whole Bible once in every four months, together with the critical observations; and, that he spent some hours every day in the

study of a particular book, and in perusing the best commentators who had written upon that book. His highness then took up the Bible, opened it, and to the no small confusion of the clerical hypocrite, found the ducat where he had laid it the preceding year.

All persons who held offices of trust under this prince, were annually examined by himself; and, if any of them were found to have wilfully violated his duty, he directed the 101st Psalm to be read to the offender in his presence, and discharged him from his service. Hence originated the proverb applied to unfaithful stewards, "The prince's psalm will be read to you."

He frequently repeated these words: "Princes are formed of earth, rule on earth, and return to earth."

In 1645, the possessions of the house of Gotha were enlarged with part of Eisenach, and in 1672, with the principal portion of the territories of the line of Altenburg.

By the duchess Elizabeth Sophia, only daughter of John Philip, duke of Altenburg, Ernest became the father of eighteen children, of whom seven sons survived him. He died in 1675.

Frederic I. eldest son of Ernest, divided the paternal dominions with his brothers Albert, Bernard, Henry, Christian, and John Ernest, upon which the house of Gotha was divided into various lines, which were called after their places of residence. In this partition, Frederic retained Gotha. To prevent the further dismemberment of his dominions, he introduced the law of primogeniture, by which the eldest son enjoys the whole estate, on making suitable provision for the younger branches of the family. He assisted in person with his brother Ernest, duke of Saxe Hildburghausen, in relieving Vienna, when besieged by the Turks in 1683.

Frederic II. succeeded his father in 1691, and died in 1732. By the princess Magdalena Augusta of Anhalt Zerbst, he had eighteen children, of whom Augusta was married in 1736, to Frederick Lewis, prince of Wales, by whom she became the mother of the late beloved sovereign of the British empire. Every necessary preparation was made for the marriage, and on Sunday the 25th of April 1736, her highness Augusta, princess of Saxe-Gotha, arrived in the William and Mary yacht at Greenwich, and was conducted by lord Delawar to his majesty's palace there. In the evening, the prince of Wales went to pay her a visit, and staid several hours. On the following day he dined with her at Greenwich, where the crowd which was collected to see her was immense. Her highness condescended to shew herself for upwards of half an hour from the gallery of the palace, which drew down the loudest acclamations.

On Tuesday the 27th, her highness came in his majesty's coach drawn by six horses from Greenwich to Lambeth. A number of carriages were provided for her highness' retinue, the officers and ladies of her household, &c. Her highness crossed the water at Lambeth and was brought from Whitehall to St. James's House in the queen's chair, where a most numerous and splendid assemblage was ready to receive her. Her highness was there introduced to their majesties, who came forward to meet her, and received her with extreme tenderness. She dined with the princesses, the prince of Wales being likewise present. At eight the procession began to move towards the chapel, where the marriage was solemnized by the lord bishop of London, dean of the chapel, and the joining of hands was proclaimed to the people by the discharge of artillery.

The supper, which was most sumptuous and

magnificent, was served up about 10 o'clock, in the great state ball-room, which was crowded with spectators. The bride, in her robes of silver stuff, with a coronet on her head, and a train supported by four dukes' daughters, and two earls, sat on the queen's left hand, the prince on the king's right hand, and next to him the duke. The princesses, Amelia and Caroline, sat on the left hand of the princess. About twelve the illustrious pair were put to bed, *when the king did the bride the usual honors, and the company were admitted to see them.*

The evening was solemnized in every part of the town with ringing of bells, bonfires, and illuminations. The monument presented a most beautiful spectacle, it being illuminated with upwards of 1000 lamps.

Her royal highness had the honour to belong to a family, whose antient extraction, whose august fortunes, and whose alliance with every royal house in Europe, are the least illustrious ornaments of its greatness. She is lenially sprung from the bravest deliverers of mankind; her immortal forefathers were the first founders of the Protestant name, and the liberties of Germany are owing to their generous struggles.

Her royal highness in the midst of that happiness which Providence had reserved for her, on contemplating the hardships and misfortunes of her great ancestor, Frederick the Magnanimous of Saxony, and that invincible virtue which supported him under them, now saw the loss of her dignity compensated to his family by the high rank to which she was raised, and the service which he performed to the Protestant interest, rewarded by the gratitude of a Protestant people.

The virtue of congratulatory addresses generally consists in the place or names of flattery which they contain, and in their first in-

roduction their chief characteristics were hypocrisy, nonsense and falsehood. On the occasion of the marriage of the prince and princess of Wales, congratulatory addresses were transmitted to them from every quarter of the kingdom, the lord mayor and the court of aldermen of the city of London taking the lead. A ludicrous circumstance however, took place in the presentation of the latter address, which placed the worthy aldermen in rather an unpleasant dilemma. The princess of Wales, on her arrival in England, was totally ignorant of the English language, and therefore could not understand the import of the city address; nevertheless it was presented to her with all due formality. On the introduction of the lord mayor and alderman to their royal highnesses, Mr. Baron Thompson, the recorder, first addressed his royal highness in the following manner :

" May it please your royal highness :

" The lord mayor and court of aldermen of the city of London, most humbly beg leave to congratulate your royal highness, on your marriage with her royal highness the princess of Wales.

" 'Tis an infinite pleasure to me, sir, that I have the honour to express to your royal highness the joyful sentiments of these his majesty's most faithful subjects upon this happy occasion.

" Sir, with great satisfaction they observe your royal highness' felicity accomplished in the most delightful manner to yourself, and at the same time yielding the most agreeable view to all his majesty's subjects, of the continuance of the many blessings they enjoy to future ages.

" They entreat your royal highness' permission to offer their most ardent wishes for your royal highness' health and prosperity, that you may be blessed with a numerous offspring; that you may have the satisfaction to see them truly representing your royal highness, with the most benevolent disposition, with the tenderest humanity, assertors of liberty, and friends to mankind; with all other those princely virtues, which give a lustre even to your dignity, and which make your royal highness

the favourite of the people, and the hopeful prospect of the British nation.

Then to her royal highness, as follows :

“ May it please your royal highness :

“ As all his majesty's subjects have now an interest in your royal highness' welfare, they presume to tender you their most hearty wishes for your royal highness' prosperity, and that you may have all the joys this life can yield.

“ And as your royal highness cannot fail to complete the happiness of your royal consort, and to attract the most tender and affectionate returns, may heaven for ever continue the blissful union of your hearts, and all your years roll on with the most perfect harmony ; may your royal highness have the satisfaction of yielding many endearing pledges of your mutual love, and may they be endued with all those amiable qualities and perfections which accomplish your royal highness, and render you the object of universal admiration.

His royal highness was pleased to make the following most gracious answer :

“ My lord and gentlemen :

“ I thank you for your kind and affectionate address to me and the princess. It is a great pleasure to me the joy you shew on this happy occasion : you may be assured of my constant regard for the trade of the city, and for the welfare of the whole nation.”

They had all the honour to kiss their royal highness' hands.

The prince received them with peculiar marks of condescension and goodness ; and amongst other obliging things, he told them, that he was sorry the princess was not versed in the English language, that she might return an answer to them ; but that he would pledge himself, that she should soon learn it. He inquired of Sir John Bernard if he understood French, to speak to her royal highness in that tongue ; but Sir John excused himself, and referred to the alderman who stood next him, but he excused himself also. The alderman in his turn referred to alderman Godschall, who flattering himself that he was proficient enough in the French

language to address her royal highness, began *Je suis—Je suis*, which being pronounced as if he had said in French “ I sweat,” caused a smile to come upon the countenance of the princess, which so disconcerted the worthy alderman that he was obliged to relinquish the task of addressing her to the next alderman, who was alderman Lequesne. He stepped forward with a bold step, and began, “ *Votre Altesse Royale—Nous sommes le Prefect.*”—(English, “ Your royal highness, we are the mayor.”) The princess was obliged to turn her head aside to conceal the smile which this blunder of the worthy alderman had excited ; and, the prince seeing the confusion of the mayor and aldermen, handsomely dismissed them ; and lord Baltimore, his royal highness's first lord of the bedchamber relieved the civic body from any further embarrassment, by an invitation to dine with him on the Saturday following, at his house in Grosvenor Square.

A bill for the naturalization of the princess of Wales was immediately brought into parliament, and on the day on which the royal assent was given, the prince and princess were present in the house, and her royal highness made her obeisance when the assent was given.

The marriage of a prince of Wales has at all times been a matter of the highest importance to the public welfare, to the present and to future generations ; with it is inseparably connected the lineal succession of the crown ; and indeed he must be void of all affection for the safety, for the peace, and liberty of his country, who does not rejoice in the increase of the royal family, on the support and continuance of which amongst us, all the blessings of the British constitution immediately depend. The welfare of the state also requires that the marriage of a prince of Wales should be consummated as soon as circumstances will permit, in order

that those dangers may be avoided which are the result of a late marriage, the principal of which is leaving the heir to the crown in a minority, when the laws of the country do not allow him to take upon himself the functions of royalty; a minority is always a state of weakness and distraction, and the most pernicious of all governments, because it is the government of ministers.

Many contradictory opinions have been advanced relative to the degree of intellectual capacity which the prince of Wales, the father of our late excellent sovereign possessed, but it is certain that he entertained a generous love for liberty, and a just reverence for the British Constitution. His celebrated answer to an eminent Quaker who waited upon his royal highness, to solicit his favour in relation to their bill then depending in parliament about tithes, and to influence his friends in favour of the Quakers, deserves to be transmitted to posterity as a noble specimen of princely independence. His answer was in substance as follows:—"That as a friend to liberty in general, and to toleration in particular, he wished they might meet with all proper favour; but for himself, he never gave his vote in parliament; and to influence his friends, or direct his servants in theirs, did not become his station. To leave them entirely to their own conscience and understanding, was a rule he had hitherto prescribed to himself, and it was his purpose to adhere to it through the whole of his life."

Could any thing be more agreeable to the spirit of the British Constitution? Such a speech from the mouth of a prince is worth a hundred dissertations against corruption, for no employments ever could corrupt, were they always understood to be bestowed and held on such conditions. The weight and efficacy of good principles depend much upon the dignity

of the person by whom they are recommended; so much so, that even the vilest principles, when enforced by the authority of greatness, have been found to prevail over the best; and a nation may be talked into profligacy in the space of a few years, by an individual of an exalted station, who, were he placed in a lower sphere of life, could no more have hurt the morals of his country, than he could have drained its wealth, or blasted its reputation.

The prince had not been married many months, when symptoms of those differences began to show themselves, between his royal father and himself, which at last broke out into an open rupture, and which terminated in his being commanded not to appear at court. It was fully apparent to every one that these differences were increased and fostered by the princess of Wales, who had imbibed a particular dislike to the king, and by some of the leading courtiers of the day, who took advantage of the easy and unsuspecting disposition of the prince, to make him their stepping-stone toward the acquirement of the reins of government. Amongst other things, he was informed, that his revenue instead of 50,000*l.* per annum, ought to be 100,000*l.* from the civil list, and he was advised to petition parliament upon the subject. Although there was some truth contained in the above statement, yet, with the knowledge which the pretended friends of the prince possessed of the parsimonious and avaricious character of the king, it is certain that no advice could have been more injudicious, or more likely to accelerate the rupture between himself and his royal parent, as the additional 50,000*l.* were not to be paid from the public revenue, but from the 800,000*l.* granted to his majesty from the civil list; thus mulcting him of 50,000*l.* a year, which was by no means an agreeable prospect to an individual of the dispositions of

George II. His majesty was well aware that he, as prince of Wales, enjoyed a revenue of 100,000*l.*, and that the civil list had been augmented to 800,000*l.* for the express purpose of enabling his majesty to grant a revenue of 100,000*l.* to the prince of Wales. The expenses of his royal highness were at this time 63,000*l.* a-year; and it being therefore evident that a debt was accumulating which would eventually place his royal highness in a state of great embarrassment, it was determined in the house of lords, that an address should be presented to his majesty, expressing the just sense of that house, of his majesty's great goodness and tender regard for the lasting welfare and happiness of his people, on the marriage of his royal highness the prince of Wales; and as the lords could omit no opportunity of shewing their zeal and regard for his majesty's honour, and the prosperity of his family, the address concluded by "humbly beseeching his majesty, that in consideration of the high rank and dignity of their royal highnesses, the prince and princess of Wales, and their many eminent virtues and merits, he would be graciously pleased to settle 100,000*l.* a year on the prince of Wales, out of the revenue cheerfully granted to his majesty for the expenses of his civil government, and better supporting the dignity of the crown, and for enabling his majesty to make an honourable provision for his family, in the same manner as his majesty enjoyed it before his happy accession to the throne; and, also humbly beseeching his majesty to settle the like jointure on her

royal highness the princess of Wales, as her majesty had when she was princess of Wales; and assuring his majesty that the house would be ready to do every thing on their part to perform the same; as nothing would more conduce to the strengthening of his majesty's government, than honourably supporting the dignity of their royal highnesses, from whom they hope to see a numerous issue, to deliver down the blessings of his majesty's reign to the latest posterity."

This was met on the part of his majesty, by a message which was delivered in writing to the prince of Wales, and which the duke of Newcastle* now laid before parliament, as the ground for opposing the motion for the address above-mentioned. The following was the message of his majesty:

His Majesty's Message to the Prince of Wales, by the Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Stewart, Lord Chamberlain, Dukes of Richmond, Argyle, Newcastle, Earls of Pembroke, Scarborough, and Lord Harrington; which, being in Writing, was as follows, viz.:

His majesty has commanded us to acquaint your royal highness, in his name, that, upon your royal highness's marriage, he immediately took into his royal consideration the settling a proper jointure upon the princess of Wales; but his sudden going abroad, and his late indisposition since his return, had hitherto retarded the execution of these his gracious intentions; from which short delay his majesty did not apprehend any inconveniencies could arise, especially since no application had, in any manner, been made to him upon this subject by your royal highness: and that his majesty hath now given orders for settling a jointure upon the princess of Wales, as far as he is enabled by law, suitable to her high rank and dignity; which he will, in proper time, lay before his parliament,

* The duke of Newcastle at this time resided in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. His residence was the corner of Great Queen-street, the mansion, part of which is over the low archway, is now divided into three houses. Here this nobleman lived in a style of expense almost unexampled. He had frequently the *Pope's-eye* cut from thirty legs of mutton to make a single dish at his public dinners. Nor would he ever permit a suit of livery which any of his servants had worn to be sold, but had them stored in a large room appropriated for that purpose. After the death of his grace, this hoard was cleared, and found its way into all the old clothes'-shops in London; and, for a long time after, there was scarcely a cart, porter, or dustman, who did not appear in the Newcastle livery.

in order to be rendered certain and effectual, for the benefit of her royal highness.

The king has further commanded us to acquaint your royal highness that, although your royal highness has not thought fit, by any application to his majesty, to desire that your allowance of fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, which is now paid you by monthly payments, at the choice of your royal highness, preferably to quarterly payments, might, by his majesty's further grace and favour, be rendered less precarious, his majesty, to prevent the bad consequences, which, he apprehends, may follow from the undutiful measures, which, his majesty is informed, your royal highness has been advised to pursue, will grant to your royal highness, for his majesty's life, the said fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, to be issuing out of his majesty's civil list revenues, over and above your royal highness's revenues arising from the duchy of Cornwall; which his majesty thinks a very competent allowance, considering his numerous issue, and the great expenses which do and must necessarily attend an honourable provision for his whole royal family.

And to this message his royal highness the prince returned a verbal answer, which was in substance as follows, *viz.* :

That his royal highness desired the lords to lay him, with all humility, at his majesty's feet; and to assure his majesty, that he had, and ever should retain, the utmost duty for his royal person; that his royal highness was very thankful for any instance of his majesty's goodness to him or the princess, and particularly for his majesty's gracious intention of settling a jointure upon her royal highness; but, that as to the message, the affair was now out of his hands, and therefore he could give no answer to it.

After which his royal highness used many dutiful expressions towards his majesty, and then added, "Indeed, my lords, it is in other hands, I am sorry for it."

On this followed one of the most animated debates which was ever heard within the walls of the upper house. Some most acrimonious epithets were used, and some personal sarcasms expressed, which so excited the anger

of the respective parties, that the authority of the chancellor was scarcely sufficient to maintain order in the house.

The motion for the address was in the end negatived by a majority of 103 to 40, but certain lords entered their protest immediately, some expressions of which gave so much umbrage to his majesty, that he remembered the names of the protesting lords to his death. It however, contains so complete an exposition of the claim of the prince of Wales to the 100,000*l.* *per annum*, and it is enforced with so much energy according to the sound and constitutional principles, which ought always to distinguish the noble legislators of the kingdom, that it deserves to be handed to posterity as a noble specimen of the freedom which distinguished our forefathers in their legislative transactions.

Dissentient.

1. Because that this house has an undoubted right to offer, in an humble address to his majesty, their sense, upon all subjects in which this house shall conceive that the honour and interest of the nation are concerned.

2. Because the honour and interest of the nation, crown, and royal family, can be concerned in nothing more, than in having a due and independent provision made for the first-born son, and heir apparent to the crown.

3. Because, in the late king's reign, 100,000*l.* a year, clear of all deductions whatsoever, was settled upon his present majesty when prince of Wales, out of a civil list not exceeding 700,000*l.* a year.

4. Because his present majesty had granted him by parliament, several funds to compose a civil list of 800,000*l.* a year, which we have very good reason to believe bring in at least 900,000*l.*, and are more likely to increase than to diminish.

5. Because out of this extraordinary and growing civil list, we humbly conceive his majesty may be able to make an honourable provision for the rest of his royal family, without any necessity of lessening that revenue which, in his own case, when he was prince of Wales, the wisdom

of parliament adjudged to be a proper maintenance for the first-born son, and heir apparent of the crown.

6. Because it is the undoubted right of parliament to explain the intention of their own acts, and to offer their advice in pursuance thereof. And though, in the inferior courts of Westminster-hall, the judges can only consider an act of parliament according to the letter and express words of the act, the parliament itself may proceed in a higher way, by declaring what was their sense in passing it, and on what grounds, especially in a matter recent, and within the memory of many in the house, as well as out of it.

7. Because there were many obvious and good reasons, why the sum of 100,000*l.* per annum for the prince, was not specified in the act passed at that time, particularly his being a minor, and unmarried. But we do apprehend, that it is obvious, that the parliament would not have granted to his majesty so great a revenue above that of the late king, but with an intention that 100,000*l.* a year should at a proper time be settled on the prince, in the same manner as it was enjoyed by his royal father when he was prince of Wales and his royal highness being now thirty years old, and most happily married, we apprehend it can no longer be delayed, without prejudice to the honour of the family, the right of the prince, and intention of the parliament. And as in many cases the crown is known to stand as trustee for the public, upon grants in parliament; so we humbly conceive, that in this case, according to the intention of parliament, the crown stands as trustee for the prince, for the aforesaid sum.

8. Because we do conceive, that the present princess of Wales ought to have the like jointure that her present majesty had when she was princess of Wales, and that it would be for the honour of the crown, that no distinction whatsoever should be made between persons of equal rank and dignity.

9. Because we apprehend, that it has always been the policy of this country, and care of parliament, that a suitable provision independent of the crown, should be made for the heir-apparent, that by shewing him early the ease and dignity of independence, he may learn by his own experience, how a great and free people should be governed. And as we are convinced in our consciences, that if this question had been passed in the affirmative, it would have prevented all future uneasiness that may un-

happily rise upon this subject, by removing the cause of such uneasiness, and giving his royal highness what we apprehend to be his right, we make use of the privileges inherent in members of this house, to clear ourselves to all posterity from being concerned in laying it aside.

10. Lastly, We thought it more incumbent upon us to insist upon this motion, for the sake of this royal family, under which alone we are fully convinced we can live free, and under the royal family we are fully determined we will live free.

<i>Winchester and Nottingham,</i>	<i>Bridgwater,</i>
<i>Berkshire.</i>	<i>Bedford,</i>
<i>Cobham,</i>	<i>Weymouth,</i>
<i>Chesterfield,</i>	<i>Bathurst,</i>
<i>Cardigan,</i>	<i>Coventry,</i>
<i>Marlborough.</i>	<i>Ker,</i>
<i>Carteret,</i>	<i>Suffolk.</i>

It happened, that shortly after this celebrated protest, which created so great a sensation in the political world, one of the protesting lords appeared at court, and his majesty perceiving him, immediately accosted him in his usual rough and uncouth manner—" *You will be free, and I will be free, therefore I will be free of you ;*" and turning his back upon him, left the astonished nobleman to his own reflections.

This most undutiful behaviour of the prince of Wales, as it was styled by his majesty, which solely consisted in attempting to obtain that revenue which his father himself enjoyed, tended in a great degree to widen the breach which then subsisted in the royal family; but a circumstance shortly after occurred, which not only roused the resentment of the king in the highest degree, but excited the curiosity and interest of the whole nation.

The prince had at this time been married nearly fourteen months, and the country was anxiously expecting the announcement of the pregnancy of his royal consort. The motive which actuated his royal highness in keeping her pregnancy a secret, is to this day enve-

loped in mystery. The unhappy situation in which he stood with his royal parent, was supposed by many persons, connected with the court at that time, to have some share in the resolution of the prince to keep the interesting situation of his consort a secret from his parents, but mature reflection must have taught him, that in his exalted station, the preservation of such a secret was next to impossibility, but it does most certainly appear that throughout the whole of this mysterious affair, he was not acting consistently with that duty which he owed his parents, nor with a proper regard to the safety of his princess, nor to the interests of the nation, which depend so greatly upon the lineal succession to the crown. It was not till the 5th. of July, 1737, that the prince announced the pregnancy of the princess to the queen, in the following letter, delivered to her majesty by lord North :

MADAM,

Kew, July 5, 1737.

Dr. Hollings and Mrs. Cannon have just told me, that there is no longer any doubt of the princess's being with child. As soon as I had their authority, I would not fail to acquaint your majesty therewith, and to beg you to inform the king of it at the same time. I am with all possible respect,

Madam, your majesty's most humble,

And most obedient son and servant,

FREDERICK.

This was the first official information which her majesty received of the pregnancy of the princess of Wales, and, as the sequel will testify, it carried with it an extraordinary degree of deliberate secrecy, that Dr. Hollings and Mrs. Cannon should only be induced to declare their positive knowledge of the pregnancy of the princess about three weeks before her delivery, for at this advanced state of her pregnancy, it could not require the medical sagacity of the doctor, nor the obstetrical skill of Mrs. Cannon,

to determine a point which must have been apparent to the most common observer. Three weeks had, however, scarcely elapsed after the announcement of her pregnancy, before the princess was delivered, at St. James's, of a daughter, on which the prince sent for lord Harrington and sir Robert Walpole, who attended him at her bed-side about five o'clock in the morning. His royal highness was induced to take this step, in order that some explanation which was demanded by the king, might be given of the cause of the repeated journeys of his royal highness from Hampton-court to St. James's, and thereby endangering the life of the princess and her infant in the most critical situation in which she was then placed. The prince informed them, he did not know whether the princess was come before her time or not; that she had felt great pains on the preceding Monday, which being apprehended might prove her labour, (of which opinion lady Archibald Hamilton and Mrs. Payne declared themselves to be), he brought the princess from Hampton-court to St. James's; but the physicians were then of another opinion, and the pains ceasing and going off, they returned to Hampton-court.

On the Friday following, the princess's pains returning, he carried her again to St. James's; when the physicians, Doctors Hollings and Broxholme, and Mrs. Cannon, were of opinion it might prove her labour, but those pains likewise going off, they returned again to Hampton-Court on Saturday. The prince declared, that he should not have been at Hampton-Court on Sunday, but it being the public day, he feared it might be liable to some constructions not favourable; that the princess growing ill again on Sunday, he brought her away immediately, that she might be where proper help and assistance could be had.

This explanation was, however, by no means satisfactory to the king, and the following indignant message was sent by his majesty to the prince, by lord Essex. It was sent from Hampton-Court, August 3, 1737.

The king has commanded me to acquaint your royal highness, that his majesty most heartily rejoices at the safe delivery of the princess; but, that your carrying away her royal highness from Hampton-Court, the then residence of the king, the queen, and the royal family, under the pains and certain indication of immediate labour, to the imminent danger and hazard both of the princess and her child, and after sufficient warnings for a week before, to have made the necessary preparations for

this happy event; without acquainting his majesty, or the queen, with the circumstances the princess was in, or giving them the least notice of your departure; is looked upon by the king to be such a deliberate indignity, offered to himself, and to the queen, that he has commanded me to acquaint your royal highness, that he represents it to the highest degree.

But, as the progress and termination of this most extraordinary circumstance in the annals of our royal family will be better elucidated by the letters themselves, than by any comment of the historian, and possessing as they do an uncommon degree of interest, they are here subjoined.

From the Prince at St. James's, to the King at Hampton-court, by Lord Jersey, August 3, 1737.

SIR—It is with all the mortification imaginable, that I see by the message my lord Essex has brought me, that my coming to town with the princess, has had the misfortune to displease your majesty. Permit me, Sir, to represent to you, that in the pressing situation I was in on Sunday, without a wife or any assistance, it was impossible for me to delay one moment; otherwise I should not have failed to have come myself to acquaint your majesty with it. Besides which, the greatest expedition in the world could never have brought Mrs. Cannon in less than two or three hours after the birth of the child. As the princess had had the cholic for some days, Mrs. Cannon, Dr. Hollings, and Dr. Broxholme, who were often consulted, all assured me she was not yet so near her time, of which opinion these two physicians still were on Sunday at noon; but in case she had pains different from the cholic, that a cordial should be given her, and that she should be brought to town as soon as possible. This advice I followed in every point, and am very much concerned that a case should happen, in which my tenderness for the princess might seem one moment to remove, what is otherwise first in my thoughts, the desire of shewing my devotion to your majesty. Besides this, if I may take the liberty to say so, the princess desired me so earnestly at that time to carry her to London, where all assistance was nearer at hand, that I could not resist it: For I could never have forgiven myself, if in consequence of my refusal, any accident had happened to her. I hope all this will move your majesty, and that you will give me leave to lay myself at your feet to-morrow at your levee, which I should not have failed to have done last Monday, if the queen had not ordered me to defer it till this day. The only thing that has hindered me to-day, is the fear I have had, since I have seen my lord Essex, of displeasing your majesty, in case I should come into your presence before I took the liberty to explain to you, with all submission, the true and only motive of the step with which you seem offended. I am, with the greatest respect imaginable,

Sir, your majesty's most humble, and most obedient son, servant, and subject,

FREDERICK.

From the Prince at St. James's, to the Queen at Hampton-court, by Lord Jersey, August 3, 1737

MADAM—You cannot imagine how much the message my lord Essex brought me has afflicted me. I flattered myself that the reasons I took the liberty to give your majesty, when you had the goodness to come and see the princess, would have justified my departure from Hampton-court to the king. I have taken the liberty to recapitulate those reasons in the letter I have done myself the honour to write to him upon that subject, flattering myself, your majesty will be so good to lend them your assistance. I am, with great respect,

Madam, your most humble, and most obedient son and servant,

FREDERICK

The Prince to the King, August 4, 1737, by Lord Carnarvon.

SIR—Will you permit me to lay at your feet, my grief for the refusal I received last night, to make my court to you to-day; I cannot express how much I suffer from being deprived of that honour; and seeing myself out of your majesty's favour. If any thing could comfort me in that misfortune, it would be the innocence of my intentions, which I beg your majesty to believe can never be to offend you. I do not take the liberty to recapitulate the reasons which induced me to leave Hampton-court so suddenly, but I flatter myself your majesty will more easily grant me that pardon which I ask, when you reflect on the condition in which I found myself with the poor princess, at a time, when it was not fit for me to delay a moment. I take the liberty then most earnestly to conjure your majesty to restore me to your favour, and to permit me to make my court to you to-morrow at your levee, till which time I cannot be at ease. I am, with all the respect imaginable,

Sir, your majesty's most humble, and most obedient son, servant, and subject,

FREDERICK.

Message from the King at Hampton-court, to the Prince at St. James's, by Lord Dunmore, August 20, 1737.

It being now near three weeks since the princess was brought to bed, his majesty hopes there can be no inconvenience to the princess, if Monday the 20th instant be appointed for baptizing the princess his grand-daughter; and having determined, that his majesty, the queen, and the duchess dowager of Saxe-Gotha, shall be godfather and godmothers, he will send his lord chamberlain to represent himself, and the queen's lady of the bed-chamber to represent the queen, and desires the princess will order one of the ladies of her bed-chamber to stand for the duchess dowager of Saxe-Gotha, and the king will send to the archbishop of Canterbury to attend, and perform the ceremony.

The Prince to the King, August 20, 1737, by Lord Carnarvon.

SIR—The princess and I take the liberty to thank your majesty most humbly for the honour you intend to do our daughter, in standing godfather to her; the orders my lord Dunmore has brought shall be punctually executed. I should think myself very happy if upon that occasion I might take the liberty to come and throw myself at your feet. Nothing could prevent me but the prohibition I have received from your majesty. To be deprived of your favour is the thing in the world the most mortifying to me, who not only respect you, but (if I may make use of that expression,) most tenderly love you. Will you permit me once again humbly to beseech you to pardon a fault in which at least the intention had no share, and to permit me again to make my court to you at your levee? I take the liberty to conjure you to grant this request as a thing that will restore my quiet. I am, with all possible submission,

Sir, your majesty's most humble, and most obedient son, subject, and servant,

FREDERICK.

From the Prince at St. James's, to the Queen at Hampton-court, by Lord Carnarvon, August 20, 1737.

MADAM—Permit me to thank you most humbly for the honour you think fit to do the princess and me, in being godmother to our daughter. I have taken the liberty to return the king my thanks in writing, I have added likewise my grief for the situation I am in. I beseech you once again, madam, to assist me with your good offices, which can never be employed for your son in a more essential point than in restoring him to his father's favour. I am, with all possible respect,

Madam, your most humble, and most obedient son and servant,

FREDERICK.

From the Prince at St. James's, to the King at Hampton-court, by Lord North, August 30, 1737.

SIR—It is with all possible respect that I take the liberty to thank your majesty once more, for the honour you have thought fit to do the princess and me, in being godfather to our daughter. I cannot let this opportunity pass, without repeating my petition for that pardon which I have so often asked. I should be glad to find words that could soften the paternal heart of your majesty; if there were any that could stronger mark my grief and my respect, I assure your majesty I would make use of them. There remains then nothing more for me to say, but to conjure you once again to re-establish me in your favour; and to assure you, that nothing in the world shall change the tender respect I owe you, being with great submission,

Sir, your majesty's most humble, and most obedient son, subject, and servant,

FREDERICK.

From the Prince at St. James's, to the Queen at Hampton-court, by Lord North, August 30, 1737.

Madam,—I think it my duty to thank you once more most humbly for the honour you have done the princess and me in being god-mother to our daughter. I am extremely mortified that the king's prohibition hinders me from doing it by word of mouth; nothing else should stop me. I flatter myself that the continuation of your good offices, joined to the letter I have done myself the honour to write to the king upon that subject, will procure me that permission; and that I shall soon have the satisfaction to appear before you again.

I am, with all imaginable respect, madam, your most humble, and most obedient son and servant,

FREDERICK.

Message from the king at Hampton-court, to the prince at St. James's, by the duke of Grafton, duke of Richmond, and Lord Pembroke, Saturday, September 10, 1737.

GEORGE R.

The professions you have lately made in your letters, of your peculiar regard to me, are so contradictory to all your actions, that I cannot suffer myself to be imposed upon by them.

You know very well you did not give the least intimation to me, or to the queen, that the princess was with child or breeding, until within less than a month of the birth of the young princess: you removed the princess twice in the week immediately preceding the day of her delivery, from the place of my residence, in expectation, as you have voluntarily declared, of her labour; and both times upon your return, you industriously concealed from the knowledge of me and the queen, every circumstance relating to this important affair: and you at last, without giving any notice to me, or to the queen, precipitately hurried the princess from Hampton-court, in a condition not to be named. After having thus, in execution of your own determined measures, exposed both the princess and her child to the greatest perils, you now plead surprise and tenderness for the princess, as the only motives that occasioned these repeated indignities offered to me and to the queen your mother.

This extravagant and undutiful behaviour, in so essential a point as the birth of an heir to my crown, is such an evidence of your premeditated defiance of me, and such a contempt of my authority, and of the natural right belonging to your parents, as cannot be excused by the pretended innocence of your intentions, nor palliated or disguised by specious words only.

But the whole tenour of your conduct for a considerable time has been so entirely void of all real duty to me, that I have long had reason to be highly offended with you.

And until you withdraw your regard and confidence from those by whose instigation and advice you are directed and encouraged in your unwarrantable behaviour to me and to the queen, and until you return to your duty, you shall not reside in my palace: which I will not suffer to be made the resort of them, who, under the appearance of an attachment to you, foment the division which you have made in my family, and thereby weaken the common interest of the whole.

In this situation I will receive no reply: but when your actions manifest a just sense of your duty and submission, that may induce me to pardon what at present I most justly resent.

In the mean time, it is my pleasure that you leave St. James's with all your family, when it can be done without prejudice or inconvenience to the princess. I shall for the present leave to the princess the care of my grand-daughter, until a proper time calls upon me to consider of her education.

(Signed) G. R.

Lord Baltimore to Lord Grantham:

London, September 13, 1737.

My Lord,—I have in my hands a letter from his royal highness to the queen, which I am commanded to give or transmit to your lordship: and as I am afraid it might be improper for me to wait on you at Hampton-court, I beg you will be so good as to let me know how, and in what manner I may deliver, or send it to you. If I may presume to judge of my royal master's sentiments, he does not conceive himself precluded by the king's message from taking this, the only means, of endeavouring, as far as he is able, to remove his majesty's displeasure. I am, your lordship's very humble servant,

BALTIMORE.

*Lord Grantham to Lord Baltimore.**September 15, 1737.*

My Lord,—I have laid your lordship's letter before the queen, who has commanded me to return your lordship the following answer.

The queen is very sorry that the prince's behaviour has given the king such just cause of offence: but thinks herself restrained by the king's last message to the prince, from receiving any application from the prince upon that subject.

I am, my lord, your lordship's, &c.

GRANTHAM.

The Princess from Kew, to the King at Hampton-court. Sent by Sir William Irby to Lord Pembroke, and by Lord Pembroke, delivered to the King, September 15, 1737.

Sir,—It is with all possible respect that I take the liberty to thank your majesty most humbly for the honour you were pleased to do me in being godfather to my daughter. I should not have failed to come myself and pay my duty to you at Hampton-court, to thank you by word of mouth; but as I have at present the misfortune to be debarred that honour, I hope your majesty will not be displeased that I take the liberty of doing it in writing. It is a great aggravation of my sorrow upon this occasion, to find, that by the prince's tenderness for me, I am the innocent cause of his disgrace; and I flatter myself, if I had had leave to throw myself at your majesty's feet, I could have explained the prince's conduct in a manner that would have softened your majesty's resentment. How much am I to be pitied, Sir, that an incident so grateful to me, and at the same time so agreeable to the public, should unfortunately become the unhappy cause of a division in the family! I shall trouble your majesty no farther than to assure you, that as it is to you I owe all my happiness, so to you, I flatter myself, I shall likewise soon owe the quiet of my life.

I am, with all the respect imaginable, sir, your majesty's most humble, and most obedient daughter,
subject and servant,

AUGUSTA.

From the King at Hampton-court to the Princess at Kew. September 18, 1737. Sent by Lord Pembroke to Sir William Irby, for the Princess.

I am sorry, madam, that any thing should happen to give you the least uneasiness. It is a misfortune to you, but not owing to me, that you are involved in the consequences of your husband's inexcusable conduct; I pity you, to see you first exposed to the utmost danger, in the execution of his designs, and then made the plea for a series of repeated indignities offered to me. I wish some insinuations in your letter had been omitted, which however I do not impute to you, as I am convinced it is not from you they proceed.

G. R.

From the Princess at Kew to the Queen at Hampton-court, September 17, 1737.

Madam,—I take the liberty most humbly to thank your majesty for the honour you did me in coming twice to see me, and also for having been pleased to be godmother to my daughter. I am extremely mortified that I could not do it in person, as I certainly should have done, if the king's orders had not put it out of my power. I am extremely concerned at the manner in which the conduct of the prince has been represented to your majesties, and especially in the article relating to our two journeys from Hampton-court to London the week before I was brought to bed. I can venture to assure your majesty, that the physicians and the midwife were then of opinion, that I should not lie in before the month of September, and that the pain I complained of was only the cholick; and indeed, madam, is it credible, that if I had gone twice to London, with the design and expectation of being brought to bed, I should have returned to Hampton-court? I flatter myself, that time and your majesty's good offices will procure a happy change to the present situation of affairs, which must affect me so much more sensibly, as I look upon myself to be the innocent cause of it.

I am, with all imaginable respect, madam, your most humble, and most obedient daughter and servant,

AUGUSTA.

From the Queen at Hampton-court to the Princess at Kew, September 20, 1737.

I am very glad, my dear princess, to hear you are perfectly recovered of your lying-in; you may assure yourself, as you have never offended either the king or me, I shall never fail to give you every mark of my regard and affection. I think it would be unbecoming either of us to enter into a discussion of the unhappy division between the king and my son; and when you are truly informed of the several declarations that have been made relating to your journeys from Hampton-court, by whom, and to whom, they were made, you will be convinced, that the conduct of your husband has no way been misrepresented. I hope time and due consideration will bring my son to a just sense of his duty to his father; which will be the only means of procuring that happy change, which you cannot more sincerely wish than I do.

CAROLINE.

The close of this extraordinary affair, was the exile of the prince from the court of George II.; he then retired with his family to Leicester-house, Leicester-square, (the site now occupied by Leicester-place), and there he received the more pleasing homage of men of letters and taste, amongst whom was Thomson*, the celebrated poet of the Seasons.

His majesty, on this occasion, carried his resentment to that pitch, that he issued an order prohibiting all persons from paying their court to their royal highnesses the prince and princess of Wales, which order was however daily infringed. Information of it being conveyed to his majesty, the following was issued from the lord Chamberlain.

His majesty having been informed that due regard has not been paid to his order of the 11th of September, 1737, has thought fit to declare that no person whatsoever, who shall go to pay their court to their royal highnesses the prince and princess of Wales, shall be admitted into his majesty's presence, at any of his royal palaces.

(Signed) GRAFTON.

This sweeping excommunication from that circle of society in which they had hitherto moved, determined the prince to leave Leicester-house, and the duke of Norfolk offered him his mansion in St. James's-square as a temporary residence.

To add to the family afflictions which at this period bore with an such oppressive weight upon the father of our late monarch, he was now doomed to experience an accumulation of suffering in the death of his mother. She expired on the 20th of November, 1737. Her majesty was taken ill on the 9th, after she had breakfasted at her library in the park. A most pain-

ful surgical operation was performed upon her, but few hopes were entertained of her recovery. Although her illness was severe and afflicting beyond measure, and attended with the most excruciating pain, it was the means of giving those who had immediate access to her, the most exalted idea of her virtues, which enabled her to endure so severe a trial, not only with submission to the divine will, but with a composure of temper and magnanimity of spirit which amazed all who surrounded her. Every interval of ease from her sufferings was employed in acts of devotion, in giving new proofs of her tender love to those who were most dear to her, in shewing her tenderest regards to her servants, and manifesting her zeal for the welfare of the public.

The stubborn and unforgiving temper of the royal father displayed itself in this instance, in the most unfavourable colours. The queen expressed her wish, on her death-bed, that a reconciliation should take place between the king and the prince of Wales, and that she might be allowed to take her leave of the latter—this last request of the dying mother was refused, nor was the son even allowed to follow the sainted remains of his parent to their last earthly dwelling. Heinous indeed must have been the guilt of the son, to warrant such excessive severity on the part of the parent. It was not even compatible with his dignity as a sovereign—it sullied his character as a man—it belied all his pretensions to the character of a christian.

SATURDAY 17.

The body of her late majesty was interred in a new vault, in king Henry VII's chapel. The procession was

* The anecdote of this exquisite bard should never be forgotten. Being called upon to recite a piece of his poetry before the family, he performed it with so little credit to his own powers, that George Bubb Doddington snatched the MS. from his hands, and continued it himself. It appears, said Thomson to his royal highness, that an author cannot always read his own works. It matters not, replied the prince, if others can read them and enjoy their beauties.

from the prince's chamber, adjoining to the house of lords. Her pall was supported by six dukes, viz., the dukes of Richmond, Montagu, Argyll, Buccleugh, St. Albans, and Kent; and her royal highness the princess Amelia was chief mourner, supported by two dukes, and her train borne by two duchesses, assisted by the lord Robert Montagu, the queen's vice-chamberlain, and six duchesses and ten countesses were assistants to the chief mourner. The burial service was read by the right Rev. Dr. Wilcox, Bishop of Rochester, and Dean of Westminster. After the burial service was over, an anthem, set to music by Mr. Handel, was performed by upwards of 140 hands, from the choirs of St. James's, Westminster, St. Paul's, and Windsor; and then John Anstis, Garter King at Arms, proclaimed her late majesty's style and titles, viz.:

Thus it has pleased Almighty God, to take out of this transitory life, to his divine mercy, the late most high, most mighty, and most excellent princess Caroline, by the grace of God, queen consort of the most high, most mighty, and most excellent monarch George II., by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith; whom God bless and preserve with long life, health, and honour, and all worldly happiness.

The great bell at St. Paul's, Bow, St. Bride's, and several others, tolled from six in the evening till ten, it being during the time of the procession.

The following is the inscription on her majesty's coffin.

Depositum

*Serenissima Principissa CAROLINÆ,
Dei Gratia Regina Consortis Augustis. & Potentis.*

*GEORGE II Secundi, Dei Gratia
Magna Britannia, Francia, & Hibernia Regis,
Fidei Defensoris, Ducis Brunsvici & Lunebergs,
S. R. I.*

*Archi Thesaurarii & Principis Electoris,
Quæ vixit Annos LIV, Menses VIII, Dies XIX, &
Diem obiit Supremum xx Novembris,
MDCCXXXVII.*

The anthem performed at her majesty's interment was as follows.

The ways of Zion do mourn, and she is in bitterness; all her people sigh, and hang down their heads to the ground. Lam. i. 4, 11, 10.

How are the mighty fallen! she that was great among the nations, and princess of the provinces. 2 Sam. i. 19. Lam. i. 1.

She put on righteousness, and it clothed her; her judgment was a robe and a diadem. Job xxix. 14.

When the ear heard her then it blessed her, and when the eye saw her it gave witness to her. Ver. 11.

She delivered the poor that cried, the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. Ver. 12.

Kindness, meekness, and comfort, were on her tongue. Ecclus. xxxvi. 23.

If there was any virtue, and if there was any praise, she thought on these things. Phil. iv. 8.

The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance; and the wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament. Psal. cxii. 6. Dan. xii. 3.

Their bodies are buried in piece, but their name liveth evermore. Ecclus. xlv. 14.

The people tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise. Ver. 15.

Their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most high. Wisd. v. 15.

They shall receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hands. Ver. 16.

The merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever on them that fear him, and his righteousness to their children's children.

The following most beautiful Epitaph on her majesty, was written by one of the most celebrated poets of the day.

Here lie the remains of CAROLINE,
Queen Consort of Great Britain.

Whose Virtues

Her Friends when living knew and enjoyed;

Now dead, Her Foes confess and admire.

Her Ambition aspir'd to Wisdom,

And attained it:

To Knowledge,

And it filled Her Mind.

Patroness of the Wise,

And Friend of the Good:

She look'd, and modest Merit rais'd its head:

She smil'd, and weeping Woe grew glad.

Religion, plain and simple,

Dignified Her Mind,

Despising Shew and useless Pageantry,

Morals clear and refined

Dwelt in Her Heart,

And guided all Her Actions.

Virtue She loved, beneath Her Smiles it
flourished ;

She frown'd on Vice, and it was put to shame.

In fine,

Her life was a Publick Blessing,

Her Death is an universal Loss.

O Reader ! if thou doubtst of these things,
Ask the cries of the Fatherless, they shall tell thee ;

And the tears of the Widow shall confirm
their Truth ;

The Sons of Wisdom, shall testify of Her,

And the Daughters of Virtue bear Her
Witness ;

The Voice of the Nation shall applaud Her,

And the heart of the King shall sigh Her
Praise.

In a short time after the decease of the queen, the princess of Wales was declared pregnant, and on the morning of Wednesday, the 24th of May, 1738, between the hours of seven and eight, her royal highness was happily delivered of a prince, at Norfolk-house, who was immediately christened by the name of George, our late most gracious sovereign.

On the birth of the prince, the heir presumptive to the crown, addresses to the king were voted from every town and county of the kingdom, but as they were all couched in the same terms of congratulation, mixed with rather an exuberant proportion of adulation, it will be merely necessary as a specimen, to give the addresses of the city of London on such an important event as the birth of an heir to the crown.

On Monday the 7th of June, the lord mayor and court of aldermen waited on his majesty, to congratulate him on the birth of a prince. Mr. Baron Thomson made their compliments as follows :

Most gracious Sovereign,

The lord mayor and court of aldermen of the city of London, most humbly entreat your majesty's permission

to congratulate your majesty on the safe delivery of her royal highness the princess of Wales, and the birth of a prince.

These your majesty's most faithful and dutiful subjects, have a great satisfaction on every opportunity of paying their personal duty to your majesty ; and it gives them the highest joy, when the occasion proceeds from any good attending your royal family.

They esteem this addition to it as a very happy event, and one of the many good effects of an alliance formed by your majesty's prudence for strengthening the Protestant interest, and for the welfare and prosperity of this nation.

Your majesty's constant vigilance in promoting these good ends, claims the most dutiful acknowledgments from all your majesty's subjects : and your late most gracious assurances of your majesty's particular care for the protection of your trading subjects, and the security of their commerce, demand, in a more especial manner, the most grateful return from the citizens of London ; and I have the honour to assure your majesty, that you may always depend on their most affectionate regard to your royal person, on their utmost endeavours, in their sphere, for the support of your majesty's government upon all occasions, and on their hearty wishes to your majesty, of a long, an easy, and a happy reign.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

I take very kindly your congratulation on the birth of a prince, and look upon it as a fresh instance of your duty and affection to me and my family.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-Council assembled.

May it please your Majesty,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, in common council assembled, do with hearts full of joy approach your throne, and humbly beg leave to offer our congratulations on the happy increase of your royal family by the birth of a prince, and therein the strengthening and establishing the religious and civil rights of this country, and the liberties of Europe.

We are so sensible of the many blessings of your majesty's reign, that from interest as well as duty, we

wish it long and prosperous; and, when in course of time this prince shall come to reign, may he, by the example of his royal predecessors, have learned to rule a free but obedient people, and become the guardian of those liberties, which by their precepts he will have been taught to protect.

We should be wanting in that duty we owe to your majesty, if we did not take this opportunity of testifying our joy, and assuring your majesty of our fidelity and affection.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

I thank you for your congratulation on this occasion, and for this mark of your duty and affection to me and my family. The city of London may always depend upon my favour and protection.

On Tuesday the 27th, the lord mayor, about fourteen aldermen, the officers of the city, and common council, in a grand cavalcade, consisting of eighty-four coaches, besides the lord mayor's, waited on their royal highnesses the prince and princess of Wales, at their house in St. James's Square, with the following address on the birth of the young prince :

May it please your Royal Highnesses,

We the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-councilmen of the city of London, most humbly beg leave to attend your royal highnesses, to express our joy on the increase of your royal family by the birth of a prince, and upon the recovery of her royal highness.

May your royal highnesses become the happy parents of a numerous offspring, to be a delight to his majesty and your royal highnesses, to give joy to his majesty's subjects, and strengthen every part of our Constitution.

We doubt not but by your royal highnesses' care, this young prince will be early taught those virtuous maxims, which alone can make a prince and people happy; and that by the example of his majesty, and your royal high-

nesses, he will learn, that the glory, as well as security of the throne, must be founded in the hearts and affections of the people.

To which his royal highness returned this answer :

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I return you my thanks, and those of the princess, for this new instance of your duty to the king, and of your affection to me. My son, I hope, may come in time to deserve the gratitude of a free people, which his majesty now enjoys; and it shall be my constant care to instruct him, that true loyalty can only be the result of liberty

They all had the honour to kiss their royal highnesses' hands.

It is certain that the scandalous prostitution of addresses, and the answers to them in some reigns, have been the cause that very little weight is attached to them. It must, however, be conceded, that on this occasion, the address of the city of London was both natural and unaffected, and consistent with the greatest trading body in the world. If, however, we consider the answer of his royal highness, it breathes all the spirit of liberty which ought to animate the breast of the heir-apparent to the throne of this kingdom. As far as words can go, Cato nor Brutus could have expressed themselves so strongly in behalf of liberty*.

On Monday the 21st of June, the ceremony of baptizing the young prince was performed by the right reverend the lord bishop of Oxford, rector of St. James's, Westminster, in his royal highness's apartment in Norfolk-house. The godfathers were the king of Sweden, represented by lord Baltimore, and the duke of

* Let us compare the answer which was given at this time by the young French king, to the remonstrances of his parliament, presented by the deputies, with the first president at their head.

Gentlemen—I will order every point you advance to be examined. I know that somethings are false, and misrepresented. I sent to acquaint you, that your remonstrances were to no effect, though they *teaze* and *fatigue* me very much. I take it extremely ill, that my parliament should *presume* to concern themselves about the *right of my kingdom*, which belongs only to me, and for which I am accountable!

Saxe-Gotha, represented by the marquis of Carnarvon. The godmother was the queen of Prussia, represented by lady Charlotte Edwin. The name of the prince, pronounced on this occasion by Lord Baltimore, was, George William Frederick.

On the birth of our late sovereign, the situation of his father was little better than that of a private gentleman of independent fortune. He had not a single guard to attend him, nor a sentry at Norfolk-house. He walked about the streets of London as a gentleman, or a merchant going about his business; and, he has been known to buy an apple from a barrow-woman, and eat it as he walked along. He frequented the shops, and made his own purchases, nor was the rank of the purchaser known until the articles were desired to be sent to Norfolk-house. This simple and unostentatious mode of life, endeared him in a great degree to the people, and the absence of all guards or military protection about him, occasioned the following lines to be sent to him:

Some I have heard who speak this with rebuke,
Guards should attend as well the prince as duke:
Guards should protect from insult Britain's heir,
Who greatly merits all the nation's care.
Pleas'd with the honest zeal, they thus express,
I tell them what each statesman must confess;
No guard so strong, so noble, e'er can prove,
As that which Frederick has—a people's love.

The following description of the celebration of the first anniversary of the birth of our late sovereign will be read with peculiar interest, as it is not only descriptive of the nature of the amusements which distinguished that period of our history, but it will shew at what an early age, prince George was appointed colonel of a corps of Lilliputians.

On Thursday the 24th of May 1739, a prodigious concourse of nobility and gentry as-

sembled at Norfolk-house, to congratulate the prince and princess of Wales on the anniversary of the birth of prince George; sixty youths, under twelve years of age, sons of eminent citizens, having formed themselves into a Lilliputian company of foot soldiers, were brought, in the true military costume, in hackney coaches to Norfolk-house, when the prince ordered them to alight, and enter. Accordingly they marched in with drums beating, colours flying, and a full band playing the most celebrated martial airs before them. The Lilliputian corps having been formed into a line in the great hall, were admitted into the drawing-room, and had the honour to kiss the hands of prince George, then only a year old, prince Edward, and princess Augusta. Prince George was equipped *à la militaire*, with a hat and feather. After they had performed their exercise, their captain, master Warman, humbly requested of his royal highness, that prince George might be their colonel, which his royal highness pleasantly complied with, and the colours were put into the hands of the young prince; but they not being able to grasp them, he let them fall upon the ground, on which the prince of Wales returned them to the captain, saying, he hoped when their colonel was a man, he would not desert the standard of his country; and History can tell he has fulfilled the hopes of his parent. His royal highness ordered the Lilliputian corps to be entertained at the Gloucester Tavern in Pall-Mall, and afterwards to be carefully conducted home to their parents.

Some symptoms of indisposition manifesting themselves in prince George in the month of August, change of air was prescribed for him by his physicians, and his royal parents determined to remove him to Tunbridge-Wells, where they arrived on the 9th. At the entrance of the town, they were met by 200 of the inha-

bitants all on horseback, with cockades in their hats, when one of them delivered the following address :

May it please your Royal Highnesses,

To permit me, in the name of the minister and principal inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells, to congratulate your royal highnesses on your arrival in this country ; a country ever zealous for its liberties, and remarkable for its loyalty. The many blessings we enjoy under his majesty's auspicious reign, must render every branch of his royal house most dear to us, whilst there remains a sense of gratitude and duty.

Therefore it is our sincerest wish, that those amiable pledges of your royal loves, which the Almighty has blest you with, may beget a long race of kings and heroes, till time shall be no more.

To which his royal highness was pleased to give the following answer :

Gentlemen,

We return you many thanks for this kind address

In the early part of 1740, an address was presented by the house of peers to his majesty, on which he was pleased to order a proclamation to be published, directing that the issue of their royal highnesses the prince and princess of Wales be publicly prayed for in all churches and chapels in Great Britain and Ireland, and orders were sent accordingly to the archbishops

and bishops. The following form and order were appointed to be observed by his majesty in council :

" Their royal highnesses Frederick, prince of Wales, the duke, the princesses, the issue of the prince and princess of Wales, and all the royal family."

As it was found that the country air agreed better, not only with the princess of Wales, but also with her young promising progeny, the royal princess removed to Cliefden, having previously resided for some time at Epsom. It was in removing from the latter place that prince George, the princess Augusta, and the other prince and princess were attacked on Hounslow-heath, by two highwaymen, who rode up to the coach, in expectation of finding a rich booty ; but on being informed whose children were in it, they took prince George by the hand, and shaking it heartily, said, God bless you and your brother and sisters ; we will not hurt you. Meeting, however, soon after with another coach, containing the nurses and attendants, they did not stand upon any ceremony with them, but robbed them of a considerable booty.

One of the happy effects of the change of ministry in 1742, when Sir Robert Walpole* by

* The following character of sir Robert Walpole was found among the papers of an eminent Scot lately deceased : it is not only written with judgment, but such a strong vein of originality runs through it, that I am certain it will be perused with interest.

" Sir Robert Walpole, prime minister of Great Britain, is a man of ability, not of genius ; good natured, not virtuous ; constant, not magnanimous ; moderate, not equitable. His virtues, in some instances, are free from the alloy of those vices which usually accompany such virtues ; he is a generous friend, without being a bitter enemy. His vices, in other instances, are not compensated by those virtues, which are nearly allied to them ; his want of enterprise is not attended with frugality. The private character of the man is better than the public ; his virtues more than his vices ; his fortune greater than his fame. With many good qualities he has incurred the public hatred. With a good capacity he has not escaped ridicule. He would have been esteemed worthy of his high station, had he never possessed it : and is better qualified for the second than for the first place in any government. His ministry has been more advantageous to his family than to the public ; better for his age than for posterity, and more pernicious by bad precedent than by real grievances. During his time, trade has flourished, liberty has decreased, and learning gone to ruin. As I am a man, I love ; as I am a scholar, I hate him ; as I am a Briton, I wish his fall ; and were I a member of either house, I would give my vote for removing him from St. James's ; but should be glad to see him retire to Houghton-hall, to pass the remainder of his days in ease and pleasure."

his imbecility, or by his want of energy, had placed the affairs of the nation in the greatest embarrassment, was the reconciliation of his majesty with the prince of Wales. This circumstance threw a new light upon the protracted and unhappy differences which had so long existed between the royal relatives, as it went to prove that the reconciliation was not retarded so much by the implacable disposition of his majesty, which was always represented to the prince to be so great as to close every avenue to the accommodation, as by the intrigues of party spirit, and a reluctance on the part of the prince to enter into the views of the ministers of the day. It is also certain that the prince had attached to himself a party of no common rank and interest in the country, and who absented themselves from court, on account of this attachment to his royal highness, and in consequence of the order already alluded to, which had been issued by his majesty. Amongst these were the dukes of Beaufort, Bedford, Argyle, Bridgwater, Roxburgh; marquess of Carnarvon; earls of Derby, Denbigh, Westmoreland, Winchelsea, Thanet, Sandwich, Carlisle, Aylesbury, Litchfield, Scarborough, Coventry, Oxford, Aylesford, Halifax, Macclesfield, Darley, Barrymore, Inlagreen, Gronard, with about 250 of the most celebrated characters of the country in rank and talent. It cannot be supposed that a minister entering upon office would not gladly add this shining phalanx to his forces; and it is certain that in no period of our history were the intrigues of party carried to a greater extreme than in the reign of George II. Mr. Landys and Lord Carteret* were well aware that the reconciliation of his majesty with his son, would be immediately followed by the appearance of those noblemen and gentlemen at court, who had estranged themselves by espousing the cause of the latter; and with the knowledge of the uncertain tenure by which they held their offices, they sought for every means by which their influence or their patronage could be increased. It cannot, therefore, be regarded as an improbable conjecture, when the talents and the character of what may be denominated the opposition, are taken into consideration, that the reconciliation of the royal relatives took its origin more from the political intrigues of the day, than from any decided turn of parental affection in the royal breast. The manner, however, in which his royal highness was received at court, must have been highly gratifying to his feelings. He was received by the king in the most kind and affectionate manner; it was the most splendid court during the whole reign of his majesty, and it was curious to observe the eagerness with which particular individuals pressed forward to congratulate him, who had hitherto considered the pestilence to rage within the sphere in which he moved. Amongst the sycophants a Mr. Vane particularly distinguished himself; and on his approaching the prince to offer to him his congratulations, the prince cast an indignant look upon him, and turning away, he exclaimed, "A vane's a weathercock, which turns with every gust of the wind, and therefore I dislike a vane." The rejoicings on this important event were, however, not confined to the court; they were general throughout the coun-

* An anecdote, not generally known, is related of George II., who sent to Mr. Sandys to consult him on the formation of the new ministry. It was the particular desire of Mr. Sandys, that Lord John Carteret should form one of the branches of the administration, and this circumstance was privately communicated to his majesty. When Mr. Sandys, therefore, inquired of his majesty, whether he was to be intrusted with a *carte blanche* in the formation of the ministry, his majesty replied "No, I will give something better, I will give you a Carteret."

try. London was illuminated, bonfires were to be seen blazing in every part of the city, and the other demonstrations of joy appeared to resemble more the triumph of a victory, than the reconciliation of a father to his son*.

The prince of Wales with his family immediately took possession of Carlton-house, where a guard was ordered to attend upon him.

The education of prince George now began to claim the particular attention of his royal father, and he appeared to be deeply impressed with the magnitude of the trust which now reposed on him.

If there be a trust in life, which calls upon the conscience of the man who undertakes it more strongly than any other, it is that of the education of an heir apparent to a crown. The training such a pupil is a task indeed; how to open his mind to a proper knowledge of mankind, without letting in that knowledge which inclines to evil; how to hold off flattery, and yet admit of familiarity; how to give the light of information, and shut out the false colours of seduction; demands a judgement for distinguishing, and an authority for controlling, which few governors in that delicate situation ever possess, or can long retain. To educate a prince, born to reign over one of the most enlightened people of the world, upon the narrow scale of secret and sequestered tuition, would be an abuse of common sense; to let him loose upon the world is no less hazardous in the other extreme, and each would probably devote him to an inglorious destiny. That he should know the leading characters in the country he is to govern, be familiar with its history, its constitution, manners, laws, and liberties, and cor-

rectly comprehend the duties and distinctions of his own hereditary office, are points that no one will dispute. That he should travel through his kingdom cannot be doubted, not merely in search of pleasure and amusement, but to become intimately acquainted with its commercial and agricultural interests; but whether those excursions should reach into other states, politically connected with or opposed to his own, cannot be laid down as a general rule, but must depend on personal circumstances, and an adherence to the Constitution over which he is destined to preside. Splendour he may be indulged in, but excess in that, as in every thing else, ought to be avoided, for the mischiefs cannot be numbered which it will entail upon him; excess in expense will subject him to obligations of a degrading sort; excess in courtesy will lay him open to the forward and assuming, raise mountains of expectation about him, and all of them undermined by disappointment ready charged for explosion, when the hand of Presumption shall set fire to the train. Excess in pleasure will lower him in character, destroy health, respect, and that becoming dignity of mind, that conscious rectitude, which is to direct and support him when he becomes the dispenser of justice to his subjects, the protector and defender of their religion, the model for their imitation, and the sovereign arbiter of life and death in the execution of every legal condemnation. To court popularity is both derogatory and dangerous, nor should he who is destined to rule over the whole, condescend to put himself in the league of a party. To be a protector of learning, and a patron of the arts, is worthy of a prince, but

* To shew the temper and opinion of the people at this time, an effigy was carried about the streets of London, which represented Sir Robert Walpole sitting between the king and the prince, and from the mouth of Sir Robert issued a large scroll, on which was inscribed,—“I have *added* to the debt of the nation; I have *subtracted* from its glory; I have *multiplied* its embarrassments; and I have *divided* its royal family.”

let him beware how he sinks himself into a pedant, or a virtuoso. It is a mean talent which excels in trifles; the fine arts are more likely to flourish under a prince, whose ignorance of them is qualified by general and impartial goodwill towards their professors, than by one who is himself a dabbler; for such will always have their favourites and favouritism, and never fails to irritate the minds of men concerned in the same studies, and turns the spirit of emulation into the gall of acrimony.

Above all things it should be the inviolable maxim of a prince, to distinguish strongly and pointedly in his attentions between men of virtuous morals, and men of vicious. There is nothing so glorious and at the same time nothing so easy; if he bestows his smile upon the worthy only, he need be at little pains to frown upon the profligate; all such vermin will crawl out of his path, and shrink away from his presence. Glittering talents will be no passport for dissolute morals, and emulation will then be reckoned in no other case but that of virtue; men will not choose crooked passages and bye alleys to preferment, when the broad highway of honesty is laid open and straight before them. A prince, though he gives a good example in his own person, what does he profit the world if he draws it back again by the bad example of those whom he employs and favours? Better might it be for a nation to see a libertine on its throne surrounded by virtuous counsellors, than to contemplate a virtuous sovereign delegating his authority to unprincipled and licentious servants.

The king who declares his resolution of countenancing the virtuous only amongst his subjects, speaks the language of an honest man; if he makes good his declaration, he performs the functions of one, and earns the blessings of a righteous king; a life of glory in this world,

and an immortality of happiness in the world to come.

It is not perhaps generally known, that his late majesty came into the world at the term of seven months, and yet his constitution was sound and vigorous. The innate goodness of his heart exhibited itself at a very early period, and his general dispositions had a tendency to whatever was amiable and pleasing. The following anecdote, when he was yet in petticoats, will fully justify the above remarks. It has been kindly transmitted by the descendant of the individual who was present when the circumstance took place: "I had the honour," he says, "when the present prince of Wales was in petticoats, to be in the nursery with him, when a poor man presented himself at the window; the prince was then playing with half-a-crown. 'Nurse,' says he, 'let me give that poor man my money.' 'Sir,' answered the nurse, 'your royal highness may be deceived, for he may not deserve notice.' 'I am sure,' said the prince, 'there must be notice taken of him, for he looks very sick, and is almost naked: you know I only play with the money, but when the poor man has got it, he will buy victuals and clothes with it.'"

From the secluded state in which his late majesty passed the early days of his youth, which was partly owing to the particular dispositions of his father, and after his decease, to the cabals and intrigues of the court, the myrmidons of which used every endeavour to blacken and defame the character of his mother, to whom he was most affectionately attached, it cannot be expected that the most minute particulars were treasured for the future historian of his life, or that many which then floated upon the stream of popular report have not been swept away, and lost in the vortex of oblivion.

It will not here be necessary to enlarge on the supposed errors or defects of his education under lord Bute, which appears to have been conducted by systematic rules, if not upon generous and enlightened principles. A partiality more than was due to Scotland is said to have been insinuated by that nobleman into the mind of his pupil. The truth, however, of this charge rests upon no solid foundation. In process of time lord Bute succeeded to the ministry. That he brought forward his countrymen is true enough, but it was by extending to them the patronage of office, not, except in some few instances, by directly introducing them to the personal favour of the king. Among the exceptions must be placed Mr. Charles Jenkinson, father to the present first lord of the treasury, who, in early life, held the humble but not unimportant office of private secretary in lord Bute's household, and was the supposed medium of a secret intercourse between the sovereign and his favourite, when the latter had ostensibly retired. As these matters, however, will be treated on more fully in the history of lord Bute's ministry, we shall confine ourselves at present to those particular circumstances, which in the course of his education appeared to have a predominant influence over the mind of the young prince. Although lord Bute may exonerate himself from the charge of partiality to his countrymen, which has no particular relation to the early years of our late sovereign, yet, he cannot wholly wipe away the reproach which attaches to him for having endeavoured to instil into the mind of his pupil those principles which are repugnant to the true spirit of the British Constitution. It appeared to be the aim of the directors of the king's education, to fill his mind with high prerogative prejudices and tory predilections, more befitting a despot of the Stuart line,

than a successor of William III. This charge is a stain upon the memory of lord Bute, from which his warmest partizans cannot exonerate him. There is little doubt that his lordship endeavoured to assimilate the political principles of the young prince to those by which he himself was actuated, and by which it was his design to rule the empire, when his pupil should ascend the throne. To this end the liberal plans of the prince's preceptors were baffled. The course of instruction which they suggested for him was set aside by lord Bute's interference. A work written by father Orleans, a jesuit, was made the manual of the future sovereign of these realms. When doctor Hayter, bishop of Norwich, engaged doctor Tucker to prepare an elementary work on the principles of commerce and of political economy, as a fit subject of study for the chief of a free and commercial kingdom, the noxious influence of the earl was employed to frustrate this salutary project, and the worthy bishop resigned. Lord Harcourt who was the prince's governor, demanded an audience of George II., to complain of the mischievous attempts which were made to instil into the mind of the prince of Wales a predilection for tory doctrines, and no satisfaction being afforded him by his majesty, lord Harcourt gave in his resignation at the same time with the bishop, in December 1752. Some of the points insisted on by his lordship on the *sine qua non* of his continuance in office were, that Andrew Stone, a friend of lord Bute, a Mr. Scott, (recommended by lord Bolingbroke,) and Cresset, a creature of the princess of Wales, should be dismissed from the establishment. Lord Bute's attempt, however, to mislead his pupil, altogether failed of success. There never existed a sovereign, indeed it may be doubted, if there has ever lived a well-educated English gentleman more

warmly attached to the laws of England, and to the constitutional rights of the people, or more firm in his determination to guard both inviolate, than our late lamented monarch; and, that this is no false nor inflated panegyric, will be evident from various acts which he committed during his long and momentous reign.

Under the tutors who were selected for him, the acquirements of the prince were neither very extensive, nor very important. The general course of his education seems to have been guided more with a view to the business of life, than to its embellishments. He made small progress in classical learning, nor were his advances in Roman literature calculated to afford him a lively enjoyment of its beauties. In the Greek he was still more deficient; but he spoke the modern languages with ease and elegance. He studied early, and correctly understood the history of modern times, and the just relations of England with the other states of Europe. But the conscientious strictness in morals, and the uniform impressions of piety which he so strikingly displayed in every situation of life, are the most undeniable proofs, that in the most essential points, the cultivation of his mind had not been neglected.

From the restricted nature of his late majesty's education and habits, his character assumed a certain degree of sedateness, and he was remarkable, through life, for his attention, and the correctness of his conduct on the most trying occasions, to which his exalted rank exposed him. This line of character was never more strongly marked than in the advice which he gave to his mother, to treat with the most perfect contempt and disregard all those idle, malicious, and insinuating reports, which were disseminated against her, from the most base and unjustifiable motives. On one occasion, when she was greatly affected, even to tears,

by the populace publicly burning the effigies of herself and the noblemen under whose superintendence he then was, (lord Bute), he mildly reproved her weakness and womanish fears, by saying; Pooh! pooh! suffer not your feelings to be thus affected by such idle stories, which have, perhaps, no foundation in truth; on the contrary, those who have conveyed the tales to you, were most probably the very persons who applied the flames.

It is possible that a female, whose conduct may be as pure as the snow new fallen, or as chaste as the first thought which is born in the infant mind, shall, notwithstanding, be dogged through life by the fiends of calumny and detraction. That rumour, which at best is built on surmises and conjecture, had been most busy in diffusing its baneful poison over the "fair name" of the princess of Wales is too well known to admit here the question of it. The vituperating spirit of the age was called into action, and malice and envy found some garbage wherewith to gorge themselves to satiety. It is not, however, solely in the most exalted, but also in the humbler stations of life, that the vampyres of detraction fasten on the character of others, and think to throw a gloss over their own degenerate nature, by a fictitious statement of another's frailty. The princess of Wales was hateful to a particular party, and to destroy her influence, and render her unpopular, the arrows of calumny were doubly steeped in poison, and shot at random at her from every quarter. That they succeeded in wounding the peace of her mind is certain, but they failed in alienating her friends from her; and in after times her noble-minded son, when he ascended the throne, stood forth as the champion of the injured fame of his mother, and discarded from his presence all those who had been base enough from party motives to asperse it.

The prince was at all times particularly attentive to his mother, as well as to those who had the care of his instruction; and from the precarious and unsettled state of her health, it was his constant practice to visit her very early in the morning, from which he probably acquired the habit of early rising, to which he uniformly adhered during the whole of his life. His studies were generally well attended to, though distinguished by no very great extent of capacity, or depth of intellect, although by a nice sense of propriety in most things, and an invariable disposition to reconcile and adjust the differences of those about him, which he was frequently called upon to exercise, not only in the family of his mother, but at an after period of life, in that of his own. The following may be taken as one of the many examples which will be recorded in the history of the above amiable trait in the character of the prince. He was one day in attendance, awaiting the arrival of his indisposed mother from the country, when he heard some of her servants inquire if the rooms had been well aired, and good fires kept in them, and the person whose particular office it was to attend to that department, gave the most positive assurance that the greatest attention had been paid to it; when on the other hand, it was shewn that the fire had never been lighted at all, by a piece of paper still remaining under the fuel, which had been purposely concealed there to convict the servant of dereliction of duty. The prince, instead of joining in the animadversions against the servant, expressed his displeasure in the strongest terms at the insidious method which had been adopted of entrapping the servant into the utterance of a falsity, concluding in his usual manner, that it would have been far more honourable and proper to have exposed the deceit, and then have reprimanded the servant whose duty and business

it was to see that such offices were duly performed.

As a prince and as a king, he always evinced the most marked antipathy to every species of deception and evasion, in ordinary conversation, or in the common affairs of life. He was fully aware of their frequent occurrence in the fashionable world, in which the tongue too often belies the real dictates of the heart, and in his own peculiarly significant manner would remark the words *yes* or *no* were the most useful and important in our language, though they did not actually imply any thing. This *yes* or *no* gave rise to a very severe retort which he met with as prince of Wales, when his attachment to a lady of a particular persuasion was generally known. Receiving once an evasive answer from a handsome lady, he said, he admired a plain *yes* or *no* from beautiful lips more than the most studied phrase: "Your royal highness means," retorted the lady, "*a yea or nay*."

Whatever may have been the errors which his father, Frederick prince of Wales, committed in the education of his son, and which have been grossly magnified by various persons according to their private or political opinions, it is an undoubted fact, that every endeavour was used by his father to instil into the mind of his son, the highest veneration for the liberties of the country, and the blessings of our invaluable Constitution.

Prince George was but eleven years old when he had a present made to him of a copy of Addison's *Cato*, most superbly bound, with the following lines, taken from the verses which accompanied Mr. Addison's present of his tragedy to the mother of Frederick, prince of Wales:—

Thou too, the darling of our fond desires,
Whom Albion, op'ning wide her arms, requires,
With manly valour, and attractive air,
Shalt quell the fierce, and captivate the fair.

O England's younger hope! in whom conspire
The mother's sweetness, and the father's fire!
For thee, perhaps, ev'n now, of kingly race,
Some dawning beauty blooms in every grace,
Some Carolina, to heav'n's dictates true,
Who, while the scepter'd rivals vainly sue,
Thy in-born worth with conscious eyes shall see,
And slight 'th' imperial diadem for thee.

As the acting of plays by the royal children was one of the favourite amusements of the prince and princess of Wales, it was resolved that *Cato* should be acted, and the private theatre of Leicester-house was handsomely fitted up for the occasion. The play was cast as follows:

PORTIUS, *Prince George.*
JUBA, *Prince Edward.*
CATO, *Master Nugent.*
SEMPRONIUS, *Master Evelyn.*
LUCIUS, *Master Montague.*
DECIUS, *Lord Milsington*
SYPHAX, *Lord North's Son.*
MARCUS, *Master Maddon.*
MARCIA, *Princess Augusta.*
LUCIA, *Princess Elizabeth.*

The following PROLOGUE was spoken by prince George.

To speak with freedom, dignity and ease,
To learn those arts, which may hereafter please;
Wise authors say—let youth in earliest age,
Rehearse the poet's labours on the stage.
Nay more! a nobler end is still behind,
The poet's labours elevate the mind;
Teach our young hearts with generous fire to burn,
And feel the virtuous sentiments we learn.

T' attain these glorious ends, what play so fit,
As that, where all the powers of human wit
Combine, to dignify great Cato's name,
To deck his tomb, and consecrate his fame;
Where liberty—O name for ever dear!
Breathes forth in ev'ry line, and bids us fear
Nor pains, nor death, to guard our sacred laws,
But bravely perish, in our country's cause,
Patriots indeed! worthy that honest name,
Thine every time and station still the same.

5—6.

Should this superior to my years be thought,
Know—'tis the first great lesson I was taught.
What though a boy, it may with pride be said,
A boy in England born, in England bred:
Where freedom well becomes the earliest state,
For there the love of liberty's innate.
Yet more—before my eyes those heroes stand,
Whom the great William brought to bless this land;
To guard with pious care, that generous plan,
Of power well bounded—which he first began.

But while my great fore-fathers fire my mind,
The friends, the joy, the glory of mankind;
Can I forget, that there is one more dear?
But he is present—and I must forbear.

The EPILOGUE was spoken by princess Augusta and prince Edward.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA.

The Prologue's fill'd with such fine phrases,
George will alone have all the praises,
Unless we can (to get in vogue)
Contrive to speak an epilogue.

PRINCE EDWARD.

George has, 'tis true, vouchsafed to mention
His future gracious intention;
In such heroic strains, that no man
Will e'er deny his soul is Roman.
But what have you or I to say to
The pompous sentiments of Cato?
George is to have imperial sway;
Our task is only to obey.
And, trust me, I'll not thwart his will,
But be his faithful Juba still.
—Tho', sister! now the play is over,
I wish you'd get a better lover.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA.

Why,—net to under-rate your merit,
Others would court with different spirit:
And I,—perhaps,—might like another,
A little better than a brother,
Could I have one of England's breeding;—
But 'tis a point they're all agreed in,
That I must wed a foreigner,
And cross the sea—the Lord knows where;
—Yet, let me go where'er I will,
England shall have my wishes still.

PRINCE EDWARD.

In England born, my inclination,
Like yours, is wedded to the nation:

And future times, I hope, will see
 Me General, in reality.
 —Indeed! I wish to serve this land,
 It is my father's strict command:
 And none he ever gave, will be
 More cheerfully obey'd by me.

After the play, the following exquisite lines
 were spoken by master Nugent to prince George,
 in their respective characters of Cato and
 Portius.

CATO to PORTIUS.

While I, exalted by my prince's grace,
 In borrow'd pomp assume old *Cato's* place,
 Tho' ill may suit his form with beardless youth,
 Yet shall his soul beam forth in honest truth;
 And thou, indulgent to my real part,
 Accept this tribute from a faithful heart.
 Whether some angel plann'd the poet's page,
 And Addison foretold thy rising age;
 Or whether, prompted by a kindred flame,
 Thy early virtues wear an hero's name;
 Still greater glories wait approaching years,
 When *George* shall be, what *Portius* now appears:
 When filial piety shall guard the throne,
 And love paternal make thy fame its own.
 Then shall great Cato from the heavens incline
 His raptur'd eyes, to view his mended line.
 Well may a brighter *Marcia* shine on earth,
 When such she shines who gave our *Marcia* birth;
 While, fraught with *British* worth and *Roman* fire,
 A second *Juba* emulates his sire;
 And nature's gifts, by liberal care refin'd,
 Stamp in *Elizabeth* a *Lucia's* mind.
 Nor nameless thou, our younger hope, repine,
 The godlike *William's* deathless name is thine.
 Should fell Ambition wasteful torrents spread,
 Or motley Faction raise his frantic head,
 Millions with *George* shall own his sacred cause
 Of power, freedom, monarchy, and laws.
 Thy virtues then shall claim a better fate
 Than his, who fell beneath a falling state:
 Our throne shall rise more glorious than his grave,
 And *George* preserve, what *Cato* could not save.
 Thus while thy arm the banner shall display,
 While *Edward* learns to conquer and obey,
 O! *Eton*, may this be thy boasted pride,
 Thy sons shall combat near their prince's side,

Cheer'd by his smiles, and honour'd by his choice,
 Thy towers resound—I hear th' inspiring voice:
 “Never shall treason stain this bless'd retreat,
 “Nor barbarous riot shake the Muses' seat;
 “Pure shall the hallow'd stream of learning flow,
 “And the chaste fires thro' spotless bosoms glow.
 “For these the Roman pour'd his patriot blood,
 “For these, unmov'd, the royal Spartan stood:
 “But Rome hath bled, and Greece has fought, in vain
 “For those, who bend the neck, and court the chain.”

The first time that his royal highness
 appeared at the theatre as prince of Wales,
 a remarkable occurrence took place, and which
 drew the whole attention of the audience to-
 wards him. In the entertainment there was
 a dove-house represented, which was attacked
 by a ruffian, with an intent to destroy the
 emblems of innocence: the doves being
 frightened, flew about in disorder, one fell on
 the stage, and another taking two or three
 turns, flew into the prince's box, and fell down
 by his side. The whole audience testified their
 enjoyment of this singular occurrence, by loud
 clapping. The prince expressed a wish to
 keep the dove, but it was restored to the
 owners by his attendants.

The DIARY of George Bubb Doddington,
 which, however, was not published until 1784,
 contains a grand display of political intrigue
 which took place at the British court from
 1749 to 1761, and the interest which it excites
 is not a little increased by the description which
 it gives of the manner in which the parents of
 his late majesty were accustomed to spend their
 time. We have heard much in our days of
 the frivolity which attends the actions of
 princes, and the blood-hounds of party have
 been immediately let loose to bellow their sup-
 posed infamy to the world, but the princes and
 princesses of those earlier times considered it
 by no means derogatory to their dignity to at-
 tend fairs, and to visit gipsies and conjurers,

and his late majesty was generally included in their parties. We will not stop here to inquire whether the amusements of his royal parents were calculated to instil into the mind of the future monarch of these realms, that sense of dignity and of character which ought ever to be the inseparable attendants upon royalty; on the contrary, whether the tricks and devices of conjurers, or the ridiculous prognostications of fortune-tellers, or the vulgar and depraved conversation of gipsies, were not likely at his early age to diffuse a baneful contamination over his mind, and to fill it with those superstitious ideas, which operate as a check upon the growth of every species of mental illumination. It is, however, apparent, that when his late majesty ascended the throne, he had not forgotten the companion of his youthful amusements, for, on the 13th of April 1761, not more than six months after his accession, he created G. B. Doddington, baron of Melcombe Regis; he was appointed clerk of the pells in Ireland, which at his death went into the family of lord Holland, and was afterwards disposed of by Mr. Fox to Mr. Jenkinson. Mr. Doddington was in many respects a wary but an able politician, yet, prompted by vanity and ambition, he made one false step in deserting the service of his majesty George the Second, for the expectation of leading the councils of the prince of Wales. This turned out a vain hope, the courtiers about the prince considering him as an intruder, would hold no friendly communication with him, and the two years he remained in that court, was a continual scene of bickering, quarrelling, and intrigue. His *Diary* is, however, so far interesting and valuable, as it exposes the secret machinery which was set to work in order to establish the ministry which misled the councils of his late majesty on his accession to the throne. The following ex-

tracts will show the intriguing spirit of the times:—

“ On the 8th of March 1749, the prince ordered the earl of Middlesex to send Mr. Ralph to me, offering the full return of his favour to me, and to put the principal direction of his affairs into my hands.

“ 11th. Resigned my office of treasurer of the navy, but continued to act to the 3d of May, until a successor was appointed.

“ July 18th. Had often the honour of supping with the prince and princess, and spending the day with them at Kew. Made treasurer of the chambers, 2,000*l.* per annum. Promised on the word and honour of a prince, on his coming to the crown, the seals of the southern province and a peerage, and kissed hands by way of acceptance. My friends to be provided for. Mr. Furnese, the treasurer; Sir Francis Dashwood, treasurer of the navy, or cofferer; Mr. Henly, solicitor-general. Lord Talbot I was to settle with when I saw him in Dorsetshire.

“ 19th. Promised Mr. Ralph, that he should be my secretary, if I lived to have the seals.

“ October 16th. Went to Cliefden to their royal highnesses.

“ 20th. We all went to Auborn fair. Prince George was in our coach. He solicited his mother to purchase a large drum for him. ‘Be not anxious about such a trifle,’ said his royal mother, ‘the drums of your nation will soon be heard all over Europe.’ Went into a fortune-teller’s booth, but one of the royal servants shewing himself at the door, we were recognised, and the whole art of the fortune-teller appeared to have deserted him.

“ November 12th. At Carlton-House, settled all the steps to be taken on the demise of the king. I undertook to find 2 or 300,000*l.* to go on with, till a new parliament could grant the civil list.

" 1750, February 25th. In the afternoon I met their royal highnesses' by order, at lady Middlesex's, where we were joined by Madame de Munchausen, and Mr. Breton; we went in our own coaches to a fortune-teller's, who was young Des Noyers, disguised, and instructed to surprise Madame de Munchausen, which he effectually did. From the fortune-teller's we went to supper at Carlton-House.

" 27th and 28th. The prince and princess, prince George, all of us, men, women, and children, walked in the new walk at Kew.

" June 28th. Ladies Middlesex and Torrington, lord Bathurst, Mr. Breton and I, waited on their royal highnesses in private coaches to Norwood forest, to see a settlement of gipsies. We returned, and went to Bettesworth the conjurer, in hackney coaches. Not finding him, we went in search of the little Dutchman, but were disappointed, and concluded the particularities of this day by supping with Mrs. Cannon, the princess's midwife.

" August 8. Went with the princess, prince George, and lady Middlesex, to Camberwell fair. Went to a fortune-teller's. Prince George was told that he would one day be king of England. The fellow knew us.

" 1751, January 20. Went in private coaches with their royal highnesses, ladies Middlesex, Howe, lord Inchiquin, and Sir Thomas Bootle, to Mr. Glasse's, where we sent for a conjurer.

" March 12th. His royal highness died. Conversations with the princess respecting prince George, and the formation of his ministry on the demise of the king.

" 1753, February 8. In a conversation with the princess dowager of Wales, her royal highness said, in speaking of the ministry (the Pelhams,) that she thought they had a very few friends, and wondered at their not getting

more, and that it was their cowardice only that hindered them; that if they talked of the king, she was out of patience, it was as if they should tell her that her George below would not do what was proper for him; that just so the king would make a stutter and bustle, but when told him it must be done from the necessity of his service, he must do it, as George must, when she came down.

" February 26th. Conversed with the princess respecting prince George. She wished him to be got out of the hands of his present governors, and that if a change in the ministry could be effected, she might perhaps succeed in sending him to the Continent for a time. She did not approve of the company which he kept, but more in a political than personal point of view.

" March 3d. In another conversation with the princess on the charge against Mr. Stone and Mr. Murray, (afterwards lord Mansfield) for drinking the Pretender's health, the princess said, she had seen her great fat friend, (the duke) who asked her if she did not think it a very disagreeable affair? That she had answered yes, but that she did not regard it. Mr. Doddington adds, she told me then, that Murray had behaved with spirit, and made an exceeding good speech, and that he had strongly marked, that it was not he, nor Stone that were principally struck at, but that it went home to the ministry.

" November 3d. Mr. Ralph told me, that he had made his peace with the ministry by the means of lord Harrington, to whose favour he was recommended by Mr. Garrick; that he was to have 300*l.* a year, and 200*l.* immediately down, to repay to those he was engaged with the money they had advanced to him. Mr. Pelham had told me all this before, as also

that it was contrary to his opinion, but that his brother was uneasy about it, and therefore he had acquiesced.

“ 1754, May 29th. Went to Kew before eleven o'clock. The princess walked with me till two. Much conversation about the prince George; wished he saw more company—but who of the young people were fit? Wished he had acquaintance older than himself; durst not recommend for fear of offence, while he had governors, &c., and was under immediate inspection, all that they did not direct would be imputed to her. In a year or two he must be thought to have a will of his own, and then he would, she hoped, act accordingly. Expressed great slight and disregard for those in office, and her usual dislike for the king*. We talked of his accumulation of treasure, which she reckoned at 4,000,000*l*. I did not pretend to guess, but that I computed the accumulation to be from 12 to 15,000,000*l*. That these things within a moderate degree, perhaps less than a fourth part, could be proved beyond all possibility of denial, and when the case should exist, would be published in controversial pamphlets, if troublesome times should arise, which I hoped in God would never happen.

“ 1755, May 7th. I passed the evening at Leicester-house. The princess was clear that the duke of Newcastle could not stand, as things were. She desired it might be understood, that her house had no communication with Newcastle-house, but not that she said it, because it would be told at St. James's, at which placé she desired to avoid all disputes.

“ May 9th. Mr. Pitt came to lord Hillsborough's, where was Mr. Fox, who stepping aside, and Mr. Pitt thinking he was gone, the latter declared to lord Hillsborough, that all connexion between him and Mr. Fox was over, *that the ground was altered*, that Fox was of the cabinet and regent, and he was left exposed, &c. That he would be second to nobody, and, Mr. Fox rejoining the company, Mr. Pitt being heated, said the same and more to him; that if Fox succeeded, and so made way for him, he would not accept the seals of secretary from him, for that would be owning an obligation and superiority, which he would never acknowledge: he would owe nothing but to himself, with much more, in very high language, and very strange discourse. Mr. Fox asked him what would put them upon the same ground, to which Pitt replied, *a winter in the cabinet, and a summer's regency*.

“ 27th. I was with the princess by her order; we had much conversation both in the morning and evening, in which I think all was said that my memory could suggest to me upon the present state of affairs—the weakness, meanness, cowardice, and baseness of the duke of Newcastle—the probability of a *certain event* taking place soon, in which case a regency would be immediately appointed, and that the eyes of the nation were directed to her. She signified her entire approbation of all I had said by several short interrogations, and then said that she was, and had long been, much affected with the melancholy prospect of her own and her son's affairs. I told her I thought it absolutely necessary to attempt a settlement,

* In some points there exists rather a singular coincidence in the early life of our lamented princess Charlotte, and that of our late revered monarch. The former was for some time under the guidance and superintendence of a mother, who certainly left no means untried to instil into the mind of her daughter a dislike not only to her august father, but to those who surrounded him; and, the latter was under the direction and influence of a mother, whose whole aim appeared to be to clog the machinery of the state, and to instil into the mind of her son a hatred of his grandfather.

not only for the present, but which might with small alterations last, when a *certain event* took place; for it would be a melancholy thing, if under a young king and the pressure of a war, when efficiency and immediate action were required, instead of consulting what was to be done, we must be struggling who should do it.

" In 1750, prince Frederick William was born on the 13th of May, and was baptized on the 17th of June; on which occasion prince George was sponsor by command of George II. The same month prince George was made a knight of the Garter, his proxy in the procession being lord Inchiquin. In September following, lord Bute kissed hands as lord of the bedchamber to the prince of Wales, lord North remaining as servant to his royal highness.

" On March 20, 1751, Frederick prince of Wales died, and his son, prince George, succeeded to the former title. At this time his sub-governor was the reverend Mr. Stone*, afterwards primate of Ireland. The princess dowager of Wales appears to have been an extremely domestic character. Her children passed much of their time in her company. At this time the young prince of Wales, prince Edward, and the princess Augusta, were with their mother, and a similar circumstance is noticed, December 21, 1751.

" The prince of Wales's birth-day (24th of May, old style) was kept at St. James's, in 1752, with a great attendance of nobility. It is mentioned October 9, 1752, that the prince, though by no means addicted to gaming, was fond of a sort of round game called Comet, at which he played with his mother, brother, sisters, and some nobility of the household. The princess dowager said, ' She liked that the prince should now and then amuse himself at

small play, but that princes should never play deep, both for the example, and because it did not become them to win great sums.' This excellent lady had great confidence in the good opinion entertained of her by the prince, even at the early age of fourteen; but she seems to have judged his disposition and faculties without any of that vain partiality so often observable in parents. She said, ' he was very honest, but she wished that he was a little more forward, and less childish at his age.' Her royal highness, however, seems to have been rather dissatisfied with the prince's instructors. She said, ' she really did not know what they taught him; she feared not much—that Mr. Stone told her that when he talked to the prince on the general frame and nature of the English Government and Constitution, he seemed to give a proper attention, and made pertinent remarks—that Stone was a sensible man, and capable of instructing in things as well as in books—that lord Harcourt and the prince agreed very well, but she thought he could not learn much from his lordship—that Mr. Scott was in her opinion a very proper preceptor, but as for the good bishop (Hayter of Norwich), she supposed he was a mighty learned man, but he did not seem to her very proper to convey knowledge to children: he had not that clearness which she thought necessary; she did not very well comprehend him herself; his thoughts seemed to be too many for his words. That she did not observe the prince to take very particularly to any body about him, but to his brother Edward; and she was very glad of it, for the young people of quality were so ill educated, and so very vicious, that they frightened her. That the prince seemed to have a very tender regard for the memory of his father, and that she

* This was Andrew Stone, afterwards under secretary of state, and treasurer to the queen.

encouraged it as much as she could. That when they behaved wrong, or idly (as children will do) to any that belonged to the late prince, she always asked them how they thought their father would have liked to see them behave so to any body that belonged to him, and whom he valued, and that they ought to have the more kindness for them, because they had lost their friend and protector, who was theirs also; and she said she found it made a proper impression on them.'

" On the 5th of December this year, lord Harcourt being dissatisfied with the sub-governors of the young prince, Messrs. Stone and Scott, and not able to induce the king to remove them, resigned his situation as governor; his example was followed by the bishop of Norwich; and shortly afterward lord Waldegrave was declared governor of the prince, and the bishop of Peterborough his preceptor. It had been insinuated that Mr. Stone and Mr. Scott were tinctured with bad political principles; but the princess said, ' she knew nothing of the jacobitism, the arbitrary principles, the dangerous notions of those who were accused, or any such attempted to be instilled into the children—that she could not conceive what they meant—that the bishop (of Norwich) indeed was teaching them logic, which, as she was told, was a very odd study for children at their age—that the last time the bishop (of Norwich) had been with her he complained of being disregarded, and begged her protection, shewing the great necessity of a preceptor's being always respected and supported: upon which she told him, that she always inculcated in the children to shew him great respect—and this, says she, not for love of you, my lord, but because it is fitting and necessary; for, if they are suffered to want the respect that is due to one degree, they will proceed to want it to

another; till at last it would come up to me, and I should then have taught them to disregard myself.' The princess thought, probably, not altogether without reason, that there was a political object in these resignations, to drive her into supporting the cause of the sub-governors with a degree of warmth which might displease the king, and induce him to take the prince entirely out of her hands; but she behaved with so much prudence on the occasion, that the king remained perfectly satisfied both with her, and with the royal children.

Other attempts were made to alarm the nation by anonymous letters sent to popular preachers, and also to generals in the army, expressing great concern and apprehension for the prince's education, from the character of his tutors. These endeavours produced little effect at the time; but they have nevertheless served as the basis of many false and frivolous insinuations against his late majesty's political principles, from that period to the present. The princess, shortly after the appointment of the bishop of Peterborough, said, that he ' gave great satisfaction—that he seemed to take great care, and in a proper manner, and that the children took to him and seemed mightily pleased.' As to lord Waldegrave she said, ' she was but little acquainted with him; but from all she saw, she had a very good opinion of him—that he was very well bred, very complaisant, and attentive, &c., and the children liked him extremely; but, says she, I look upon a governor as a sort of pageant, a man of quality, for shew, &c. I stick to the learning as the chief point. You know how backward they were, when we were together, and I am sure you don't think them much improved since. It may be that it is not yet too late to acquire a competence, and that is what I am most solicitous about; and if this man by

his manner should hit upon the means of giving them that, I shall be mightily pleased.'

The bishop here spoken of was Dr. John Thomas, formerly a canon residentiary of St. Paul's, but raised to the see of Peterborough in 1747. He was translated in 1757 to Salisbury, and in 1761 to Winchester, where he died in 1781.

The charge of jacobitism being afterwards publicly thrown out against Mr. Stone, he repelled it in a spirited manner, and prosecuted his accusers for defamation. On this occasion the princess conversing again with Mr. Doddington about the prince's instructors, said 'that Stone had behaved very well to her and to the children, that he always spoke of the late prince with great respect, and with great civility of all those whom he knew the prince had a real value for; but that lord Harcourt behaved very differently; that he not only behaved ill to her, but always spoke to the children of their father and his actions in so disrespectful a manner, as to send them to her almost ready to cry; that he did all he could to alienate them from her, insomuch that they themselves were sensible of it; and that George had mentioned it once since lord Harcourt's departure; that he was afraid he had not behaved so well to her sometimes as he ought, and wondered how he could be so misled; to which she answered, No; but now and then not with so much complaisance as a gentleman should use to a lady.'

The following little family scene is interesting, as it shews the quiet domestic habits in which our late revered sovereign was brought up by his admirable mother: "November 15, 1753, the princess sent for me to attend her between eight and nine o'clock. I went to Leicester-house expecting a small company, and a little music, but found nobody but her royal highness. She made me draw a stool, and sit by the fire-

side. Shortly after came in the prince of Wales and prince Edward, and then the lady Augusta, all in an undress, and took their stools and sat round the fire with us. We continued talking of familiar occurrences till between ten and eleven, with the ease and unreservedness, and unconstraint, as if one had dropped into a sister's house that had a family, to pass the evening."

The object which seems to have given the princess the greatest anxiety, was to instruct the future sovereign in a knowledge of the world, without at the same time corrupting his morals; and here she seems to have felt considerable difficulty. She said, 'she was highly sensible how necessary it was that the prince should keep company with men (he was now seventeen), she well knew that women could not inform his mind; but even if it were in her power absolutely (which, of course, it was not, on account of the king's authority), to whom could she address him? what company could she wish him to keep? what friendships desire him to contract? such was the universal profligacy—such the character and conduct of the young people of distinction—that she was really afraid to have them near her children.'

Some months after this, *viz.*, in August 1755, it was rumoured that George II. intended the prince, his grandson, to marry one of the princesses of Brunswick. In a private conversation on this topic, the princess dowager of Wales said, "she thought the match premature; the prince ought to mix with the world—the marriage would prevent it—he was shy and backward—the match would shut him up for ever with two or three friends of his, and as many of hers; that he was much averse to it himself, and that she disliked the alliance extremely; that the young woman was said to be handsome, and had all good qualities, and abun-

dance of wit, &c.; but that if she took after her mother, she would never do here; that the duke her father, was indeed, a worthy man; but the duchess was the most intriguing, meddling, satirical, sarcastical person in the world; that such a character would not do at all with George; it would not only hurt him in public, but make him uneasy in his private situation; that he was not a wild dissipated boy, but yet was good-natured and cheerful, with a serious cast upon the whole."

Whatever may have been the public or private faults of Frederick, prince of Wales, it must, however, be allowed, that he adopted every means to render himself popular, and by acts of munificence and charity to gain the good opinion of the people. The charity was however, not always dispensed with his own hand, for whenever an opportunity occurred in which it could be done with propriety, he made his sons the channel through which his bounty flowed. On one occasion the circumstance of his allowing prince George and prince Edward to be the bearers of a donation of 100*l.* to the sons of the clergy, was attended with such beneficial results to that most laudable society, as to induce the stewards to wait upon his royal highness, to offer him their thanks for having permitted his sons to attend the rehearsal at St. Paul's, by which the largest contribution was produced since the establishment of the society. The address itself will fully demonstrate the importance which was attached by the society, to this act of the prince's.

May it please your Royal Highness,

The stewards of the sons of the clergy most humbly beg leave to return thanks to your royal highness, not only for themselves, but in the name of the whole body of the clergy, for the great honour you have done them, in sending the young princes to the anni-

versary meeting for the relief of poor clergymen's children, and likewise for the most generous benefaction you was most graciously pleased to bestow upon them.

The presence of two such amiable princes was indeed of the highest advantage to the charity; it brought together the greatest number of people of every rank, to admire and to pray for them. And the pleasing prospect both for themselves and their posterity, so opened and enlarged their hearts, that it produced the largest contribution that was ever yet made upon the like occasion.

It is with the greatest satisfaction we reflect, that, as the clergy of this nation have lately shewn the most commendable zeal, in the defence of his most sacred majesty and his royal family, against the enemies of our liberties and religion; so your royal highness has taken this opportunity of shewing your regard to the whole body of the clergy, and your most generous compassion to the indigent and distressed part of them.

For this instance of your royal highness's pious beneficence, the prayers of the clergy, and the blessings of the poor, are for ever due to you: and we beg your royal highness to believe, that every seminary of piety and learning, as well as every order and degree in the church, must think themselves most highly obliged to you, for this mark of your royal highness's kindness and condescension to them.

To which his royal highness was graciously pleased to make the following answer:

Gentlemen,

I am glad to have had an opportunity to convince the clergy of the high regard I have for them; and that it shall be the study of my life to imprint the same sentiments on my children.

On this occasion prince George and prince Edward went in state to St. Paul's, in a coach drawn by six horses, decorated with orange-coloured ribands, and escorted by a party of the horse grenadier and life guards. The circumstance of the horses being decked in orange-coloured ribands gave rise to a remark from prince George, which was highly indicative of the amiable dispositions of his heart. Amongst the crowd which was collected to see

the young prince, a rude and boisterous fellow distinguished himself by singing the following elegant lines, which for some time were heard in the streets of London, more generally than even "God save the King," or "Rule Britannia :"

What's a rhyme for porringer,
What's a rhyme for porringer,
The king could spare
A daughter fair,
And he gave the prince of Orange her.

On the fellow pressing nearer and nearer to the carriage, and still bawling out his song with truly stentorian lungs, one of the guards desired him to desist; on which prince George projected his head from the window and said, "Don't disturb him, if it gives him any pleasure, it cannot but be highly satisfactory to me."

Although prince George in the general course of his education displayed no talents of a very superior cast, yet a soundness of understanding was visible, and an extreme facility often displayed itself in following an action from its most remote cause through all its complicated ramifications, until the desired effect was obtained. His reading was rather light and superficial, than solid or deep; it embraced but a few objects, and those were of that nature which a high intellectual capacity would regard as of a secondary value or importance. Theatricals were for a time the prevailing amusement of his parent, and instead of reading the *Oration*s of Cicero, or Grotius, or Vattel on the *Law of Nations*, prince George was often treated with the perusal of a tragedy, or a farce; and the following singular application which he made of the characters and politics of the several princes and states of Europe to the titles of his plays, will carry with it some evidence that although he was well versed in the theatrical

productions of his times, yet he was by no means ignorant of the political state of Europe.

To Russia, he applied,	<i>The Maiden Queen.</i>
Germany,	<i>The Rivals</i>
Genoa,	<i>All's well that ends well.</i>
Spain,	<i>The Ambitious Step-mother.</i>
Prussia,	<i>The Inconstant, or the way to win him.</i>
France,	<i>The Busy-Body, or rather the Way of the world.</i>
Sweden,	<i>She would if she could,</i>
Denmark,	<i>As you like it.</i>
The Dutch,	<i>The Medley, or Nature will prevail.</i>
Flanders,	<i>How happy could she be with either.</i>
King of Sardinia,	<i>The Spartan Hero.</i>
The Duke,	<i>The Briton or the Father of his country.</i>
Stanislaus,	<i>An old man taught wisdom.</i>
Don Philip,	<i>Much ado about nothing.</i>
The Young Pretender,	<i>A Midsummer-night's dream.</i>

In whatever relation of life the prince of Wales exhibited himself, whether in that of the husband, the father, or the patriot, he was sure to experience the malice of his enemies, and to have the most unwarrantable motives attached to his actions. If perchance the report of a generous or patriotic deed performed by his royal highness extended beyond the limited sphere of his own immediate action, the truth of it was not only instantly questioned, but the promulgation of it was without hesitation ascribed to the interested motives of those who were immediately about the person of his royal highness.

Positive virtue he had none in the opinion of the courtiers of the day, and it was very necessary that this sentiment of theirs should be disseminated and confirmed to the people in every possible way. It happened however, as it is in general the case, that a number of individuals were to be found who resolved to form an opinion of their own; and who, having formed it, had

also the courage to maintain it. Frederick indeed had no hirelings ready at his command to blazon to the world every good or generous act which he performed, although hundreds were always ready to sneak from their hiding-places to raise the clamour of popular censure, whenever he committed one of those follies, which, as they differed in their nature from those which in their sapient opinion, ought to be committed by a prince, were immediately magnified into vices of the most degenerate and formidable nature, and the odium of party followed him in consequence through life. But whatever might have been the degree of positive or negative virtue which he possessed, it must be allowed, that on all occasions he expressed the warmest veneration for the constitution of his country, and the utmost fidelity to its laws and liberties. The answer which he gave to the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council, of the city of London, on their congratulating him on the birth of a princess, who was christened at Leicester-house by the name of Louisa Anne, was long remembered and deserves to be recorded for the patriotic sentiments which it breathes. The city address may also be quoted as a specimen of simplicity, very uncommon to be found in addresses from corporate bodies to royalty, in which the monarch or the prince is endowed with every virtue which is an ornament to human nature, and wholly exempt from those vices, which, from the very constitution of that nature, must be their concomitant.

It was on the 5th of April 1749, that the lord mayor, aldermen, &c., proceeded in state to Leicester-house, to congratulate their royal highnesses the prince and princess of Wales, on the birth of the princess, and the following speech was delivered by the recorder, Richard Adams, Esq. :

May it please your Royal Highnesses,

We, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-councilmen of the city of London, beg leave to attend your royal highnesses, to express our sincerest joy on the increase of his majesty's family, by the birth of a princess, and on the happy recovery of your royal highness.

May this princess, formed by his majesty's and your bright example, become the delight of his majesty and your royal highnesses. May she study to imitate the piety and virtues of her royal progenitors, and long live to experience your royal highnesses' tender love and affection for her.

To which his royal highness returned the following answer :

My lord and gentlemen

I return you my thanks, and those of the princess, for this new instance of your duty to the king, and regard to us.

The love you have for my children is the greatest joy to me. May it increase ; and may they always deserve it, by their constant adherence to the laws and liberties of the country they have had the happiness to be born in, and by never forgetting that great rule, that their interest must always be the same with that of this brave and free people.

The city may always depend on my hearty good wishes for the welfare of their trade, and their prosperity

Prince George being now eleven years old, the king resolved to hold a chapter of the most noble order of the Garter, for the purpose of filling up the six stalls which were at this period vacant. The chapter was accordingly held on the 22d of June, at Kensington palace, and we shall merely confine ourselves to the description of that part of the ceremony which relates to the installation of our late monarch.

The knights companions, resident in and near London, being summoned to attend at Kensington, there appeared habited in their mantles his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, and the knights herein after mentioned, with the dean of Windsor the register,

and garter king at arms, in their respective mantles, and wearing their different badges, who waited the sovereign's coming; and upon his appearance, garter, by the sovereign's command, called over the names of the knights companions present, beginning with the juniors in the order, who thereon proceeded to the gallery where the chapter was appointed to be held in the following method, the juniors first; and the knights, whose companions in the stalls opposite to them were absent, went single.

Duke of Kingston,	Duke of Portland,
Duke of St. Albans,	
Duke of Richmond,	
Duke of Newcastle,	Duke of Grafton,
Duke of Dorset,	
His royal highness the duke of Cumberland,	

Garter king of arms, having on his right hand
the dean of Windsor, register of
the order.

THE SOVEREIGN.

Upon entering the gallery, the knights stood behind the several chairs (placed there as at the time of holding of the privy council) till the sovereign had seated himself in the chair of state at the upper end of the table, and then, by his majesty's leave, took their chairs. Then garter with reverence acquainted the sovereign, that the honourable Henry Bellenden, Esq. attended without the door, and most humbly beseeched his majesty to be admitted to take the oath of office, as gentleman usher of the black rod of this most noble order; and he was accordingly introduced in his mantle; and being come to the sovereign, he kneeling down took the oath enjoined by the statutes; his majesty having put the gold chain with the jewel about his neck, was pleased to confer on him the honour of knighthood; then having

kissed the sovereign's hand, he withdrew to the bottom of the table.

Garter then, in the like manner, having acquainted the sovereign, that the lord bishop of Salisbury attended without the door, and most humbly besought his majesty, that he might be admitted to the office of chancellor of this most noble order, which office is annexed to that bishoprick; and his lordship in his episcopal habit was introduced accordingly, between garter and black rod, black rod carrying on a velvet cushion the mantle, gold chain, and purse; and being come to the sovereign, black rod invested his lordship with the mantle; and the oath of office being administered to him kneeling, black rod on his knees presented to his majesty the gold chain and jewel, which his majesty put round his neck; and his lordship having received from the sovereign the purse, and kissed his majesty's hand, placed himself on the left hand of the chair of state.

Then the chancellor by the sovereign's command, declared his royal pleasure, that the six vacant stalls in the royal chapel at Windsor should now be filled; and each knight having written down the names of nine persons whom they esteemed most qualified to be elected in a scrutiny; and having severally subscribed their hands thereto, the same was collected by the chancellor, and presented by him on his knees to the sovereign, who, after inspecting them, commanded the chancellor to declare his royal highness prince George, eldest son of his royal highness the prince of Wales, duly elected.

Prince George, however, not being present, the earl of Inchiquin appeared as his proxy.

The other knights elected on this occasion in honour of prince George, were the margrave of Anspach, the dukes of Leeds and Bedford, and the earls of Albemarle and Granville.

Several congratulatory poems were addressed

to prince George on this occasion, and the opportunity was not lost by the witlings of the age, to direct the shafts of their irony and sarcasm against his father. Frederick, throwing aside all the dignity and consequence of the prince, was sometimes accustomed to walk in the city at night, and in some of these excursions he was sometimes accompanied by his son prince George. Innocent, however, as were his motives, calumny gave a very different complexion to them, as will appear from the following lines which were published shortly after the installation of prince George.

Now Frederick's a knight and George is a knight,

With stalls in Windsor chapel;

We hope they 'll prow! no more by night,

To look at garters black or white,

On legs of female rabble,

On the 13th of May, the princess of Wales being safely delivered of a prince, the baptism took place on the 17th of the following month, when the prince was named Frederick William. The ceremony was performed by the right reverend the lord bishop of Oxford. The sponsors were their royal highnesses prince George and the princess Augusta, and prince William of Saxe Gotha, brother to her royal highness the princess of Wales, who was represented by the right hon. lord North and Guildford.

The prince of Wales took particular pleasure in conducting prince George and the other branches of his family, to witness the process of the different manufactories in and about the metropolis; and there was scarcely a branch of our domestic industry, with the practical part of which prince George was not acquainted. It was, perhaps, owing to these useful and popular visits, that his royal highness, at a future period of his life, when the commercial interests of his country demanded the most vigilant atten-

tion and encouragement from the legislature, astonished the manufacturers with whom he conversed on the inferiority or excellence of their productions; compared with those of other countries; and the hints which he threw out for their improvement. Amongst the different manufactories which he visited in London, accompanied by his father, he appeared more particularly pleased with his visits to Spitalfields, than with any other; and it was on this account that the most eminent weavers waited upon his royal highness, at the time when the introduction of French stuffs had nearly banished the articles of the Spitalfields' manufactory from the fashionable world, to solicit his powerful interest on their behalf, and by his example to limit the rage which then existed, to the great detriment of our native industry, for all productions of foreign manufacture. The prince of Wales did not require a second appeal; he immediately issued an order, that no one connected with his household should appear in any foreign manufacture; and he set the example himself, in which the princess of Wales most patriotically co-operated, of always appearing in public in the productions of native genius. The Spitalfields' weavers, grateful for this mark of his royal highness's regard for their interest, repaired to Leicester-house in a body, and presented prince George with one of the most splendid silk dresses which was ever produced by the talents or industry of the Spitalfields' manufacturers.

Some symptoms of declining health now appeared in the prince of Wales, and he was strongly recommended by his physicians to try the efficacy of the Bath waters, to which city he repaired with his family, and accompanied by lords Bathurst, Middlesex, Bute, and Inchiquin. On their way to Bath the royal party

stopped at lady Bathurst's, near Cirencester, and their arrival was no sooner made public, than the incorporated company of weavers and the woolcombers of that town, following the example of the Spitalfields' manufacturers, waited upon his royal highness prince George, and presented both him and his mother with some of the finest specimens of their art.

At Bath the royal party appeared anxious to divest themselves as much as possible from all the ceremony and restraint attendant upon their station, and their frequent excursions to different parts of the country resembled more a party of private individuals than that of the heir apparent to the crown. On one occasion the whole of the royal family, attended by the nobility, went in wherries about five miles down the river, from Bath to Salford, and dined in public, under two tents, in a large meadow, to which a great crowd of country people resorted, and to whom his royal highness gave several hogsheads of beer and other refreshments.

The royal party returned to town, in order to be present at the celebration of the king's birth-day, at which it was determined that prince George should be introduced in form to his majesty. It proved to be one of the most brilliant courts of his reign; the prince and princess of Wales being both present, accompanied by prince George, princess Augusta, prince Edward, and prince Henry. The duke of Cumberland, prince George, and princess Augusta danced minuets.

One of the last places of amusement to which Frederick accompanied his family, or, indeed, in which he was seen in public, was to witness the tragedy of Othello, at Drury Lane, performed by a set of amateurs. Theatrical performances had at that time been often exhibited by persons of the first fashion, and always at-

tended with success; but the apparatus of a regular theatre had been wanting in all these representations, and the general effect was lost by the deficiency. The whole of Drury-lane theatre was hired for the purpose, the house was crowded in every part of it: stars glittered, perhaps for the first time, in the gallery: the stage-box was occupied by the prince and princess of Wales, the duke of Cumberland, princess Amelia, prince George, and princess Augusta.

On the 20th of March, 1751, prince George was doomed to experience the loss of his illustrious parent, who died at Leicester-house between the hours of ten and eleven, by the breaking of an imposthume between the pericardium and diaphragm, which threw the matter contained in it upon the substance of the lungs. It was reported that the death of his royal highness originated in a cold which he caught about three weeks previously in Kew gardens, which he increased on the 13th of March, by coming very warm from the house of lords, with the windows of his chair down; soon after which he complained of pains, which were thought to be pleuritic, and which were attended with a high degree of fever. His royal highness had however been in a declining state for some time, some ascribing it to a hurt in his breast by a fall, and others to the stroke of a ball at cricket, whilst playing with his sons. He was considered too weak to bear repeated bleeding, and was therefore blistered, and his physicians thought him out of danger. About a quarter of an hour before his death, he told Dr. Wilmot, who had attended him, and who had been up with his royal highness the whole of the preceding night, that he was much better, and advised the Dr. to go home. The princess however remained with him, to whom he soon after complained of a sudden pain and an offensive

smell, and immediately threw himself backward and expired. Her royal highness had set up with him seven nights during his illness, although far advanced in her pregnancy.

The following are the principal incidents of his life. He was born at Hanover, January 20, 1706-7; created duke of Gloucester, January 10, 1717-18; installed knight of the garter, by proxy, April 30, 1718; created baron of Snaudon, viscount Launceston, earl of Eltham, marquis of Ely, and duke of Edinburgh, July 15, 1726; first landed at Harwich, December 3, 1728; was introduced, by the command of the king, into the privy council on the 18th; was created prince of Wales and earl of Chester, January 9, 1728-9; received his summons to parliament next day, and on April 27, 1736, was married to his most excellent princess Augusta, only surviving daughter of Frederick H., duke of Saxe-Gotha, by whom he left issue five sons and three daughters.

On the 20th, the privy council met at the cockpit on occasion of the death of the prince of Wales, when above thirty members were present*. The physicians and surgeons that attended the deceased, were examined respecting the distemper which occasioned his death, and orders were issued for embalming his body, and preparing for the funeral.

The particulars respecting the appearance of the body, on being opened, were thus described by the physicians and surgeons:

"On opening the body of his royal highness we found all the parts in the lower belly, or abdomen, sound.

"The cavity of the thorax was naturally contracted and narrow.

"The lungs on the left side were perfectly sound, and without any adhesion to the surrounding parts; the heart and pericardium without distemper.

"On the right side upon raising the ribs we found a

cyste or bag, situated between the outer surface of the lungs and the ribs, which contained half a pint of very fetid matter. This cyste was about six inches long and four in breadth, extending nearly from the third rib downwards to the seventh. The coats of this cyste were near a quarter of an inch thick, and strong. This was not a new distemper, but must certainly have been growing there some considerable time.

"The lungs on this side adhered strongly to the pericardium; and these adhering parts had fresh marks of inflammation, with small quantities of matter lately formed in several cellular interstices.

"Between the lower surface of the lungs and the diaphragm we found near a quarter of a pint of matter, which was likewise apparently newly made.

"The lower surface of the lungs and diaphragm adhered strongly, where the matter mentioned did not prevent it.

"In the back part of this side of the breast, there was above a pint of serous fluid.

"The lobes of the lungs on this side were not in a perfect state, but had several schirrhous tubercles dispersed throughout their substance.

"The matter contained between the lungs, pericardium and diaphragm, had broke a communication with the substance of the lungs."

On Saturday the 13th, at half an hour after one in the morning, the bowels of his late royal highness which, in an urn covered with crimson velvet, were brought from Leicester-house in a coach and six to the prince's chamber, were from thence carried by four yeomen to Henry VII's chapel, attended by the dukes of Chandos and Queensberry, the earl of Middlesex, the lords North and Guildford, sir John Rushout, bart., George Doddington, Henry Drax, and John Evelyn, esqs., and there interred, in the vault in which the royal corpse was deposited at nine o'clock the same night.

The following procession to the funeral commenced at half an hour after eight at night, and passed through the old palace yard to the south-

* On the death of prince Henry, son of king James I., November 6, 1612, aged about eighteen; the lords of the council met next day to give orders for opening the body, by the appointment of his father, which was done that night, and a particular relation of the causes of his death was given by six physicians.

east door of Westminster Abbey, and so directly to the steps leading to Henry VII's chapel.

Knight marshal's men, with black staves, two and two.

Gentlemen servants to his royal highness, two and two, viz.,
Pages of the presence.

Gentlemen ushers, quarter waiters, two and two.
Pages of honour.

Gentlemen ushers, daily waiters.

Physicians, Dr. Wilmot, and Dr. Lee.

Household chaplains.

Clerk of the closet, Rev. Dr. Ayscough.

Equerries, two and two.

Clerks of the household or greencloth, James Douglas, esq.
and Sir John Cust, bart.

Master of the household, Lord Gage.

Solicitor-general, auditor, and attorney-general,

Paul Joddrel, esq. Charles Montague, esq. hon. Henry
Bathurst, esq.

Secretary, Henry Drax, esq.

Comptroller and treasurer to his royal highness, Robert
Nugent, esq. and the earl of Scarborough,
with their white staves.

Steward and chamberlain to his royal highness, with their
white staves.

Chancellor to his royal highness, Sir Thomas Bootle.

An officer of arms.

The master of the horse to his royal highness,
Earl of Middlesex.

Gentleman usher.	{	Clarencieux king at arms,	{	Gentleman usher.
		Stephen Martin Leake, esq. bearing the coronet upon a black velvet cushion.		

Four supporters of the canopy.	Supporters of the pall.	The Body, Covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with 8 escutcheons, and under a canopy of black vel- vet, borne by 8 of his R. H's gentle- men.	Supporters of the pall.	Four supporters of the canopy.	
	Earl of Portmore.				E. of Mac- clesfield.
	Earl Fitz- william.				Earl Stan- hope.
	Earl of Bristol.		Earl of Jersey.		
Gentleman usher.	Garter king at arms, John Anstis, esq.	Gentleman usher.			
Supporter to the chief mourner, D. of Rutland.	The chief mourner, Duke of Somerset.	Supporter to the chief mourner, D. Devonshire.			
	His train borne by a baronet Sir Thomas Robinson.				

Assistants to the chief mourner,

Marquis of Tweedale, Marquis of Lothian,
Earls of Berkeley, Peterborough, Northampton, Cardigan,
Winchelsea, Carlisle, Murray and Morton.

The gentleman usher of his royal highness's privy chamber,
Edward Bramston, esq.

The groom of the stole to his royal highness,
Duke of Chandos.

The lords of the bedchamber to his royal highness,
Lords North and Guildford, Duke of Queensberry, Earl of
Inchiquin, Earl of Egmont, Lord Robert Sutton,
Earl of Bute, two and two.

The master of the robes to his royal highness,
John Schutz, esq.

The grooms of the bedchamber to his royal highness,
John Evelyn, esq., Samuel Masham, esq., Thomas Blud-
worth, esq., Sir Edmund Thomas, bart., Daniel
Boone, esq., William Bretton, esq., Martin
Maddin, esq., William Trevanion,
esq., Col. Powlet, two and two.

Yeomen of the guard to close the procession.

The corpse of his royal highness was met at the church door by the dean and prebendaries, attended by the gentlemen of the choir, and king's scholars, who fell into the procession immediately before the officer of arms, with wax tapers in their hands, and properly habited, and began the common burial service, (no anthem being composed on this occasion), two drums beating a dead march during the service. Upon entering the chapel, the royal body was placed on tressels, the crown and cushion at the head, and the canopy held over, the supporters of the pall standing by; the chief mourner and his two supporters seated in chairs at the head of the corpse; the lords assistants, master of the horse, groom of the stole, and lords of the bed chamber on both sides; the four white staff officers at the feet, the others seating themselves in the stalls on each side the chapel; the bishop of Rochester, dean of Westminster, then read the first part of the burial service, after which the corpse was carried to the vault, preceded by the white staff officers, the master of the horse, chief mourner, his supporters and assistants,

garter king at arms, going before them. When they had placed themselves near the vault, the corpse being laid upon a machine even with the pavement of the chapel, was by degrees let down into the vault, when the bishop of Rochester proceeded with the service; which being ended, garter proclaimed his late royal highness's titles in the following manner:

"Thus it hath pleased almighty God to take out of this transitory life to his divine mercy, the illustrious Frederick prince of Wales, &c. &c.

The nobility and attendants returned in the same order as they proceeded, at half an hour after nine; so that the whole ceremony lasted an hour.

The utmost decorum was observed; and, what is remarkable, though the populace were extremely noisy before the procession began, there was, during the whole, a silence, that, if possible, added to the solemnity of so awful a sight.

The guards, who each of them held two lighted flambeaux during the whole time, behaved so well, that no accidents happened among the spectators.

As soon as the procession began to move, two rockets were fired off in old palace-yard, as a signal for the guns in the park to fire, which was followed by those of the tower; during which time the great bells of Westminster, and St. Paul's cathedral tolled, as did those of most of the churches in London.

The soldiers were kept on guard all Saturday night, and on Sunday at the south door of the abbey, and on the scaffolding in palace-yard.

The following inscription was engraved on a silver plate, and affixed to the coffin of his royal highness the prince of Wales.

DEPOSITUM.

Illustrissimi Principis Frederici Ludovici Principis Walliæ, Principis Electoralis & Hereditarii Brunsvici & 5—6.

Lunenbergi, Ducis Cornubiæ, Rothesay & Edenburgi, Marchionis Insulæ de Ely, Comitibus Cestriæ, Carrick & Eltham, Vice Comitibus Launceston, Baronis Renfrew & Snaudon, Domini Insularum, Seneschalli Scotiæ, Nobilissimi Ordinis Periscelidis Equitis, & a Sanctioribus Conciliis Majestati Regiæ, Academiæ Dubliniensis Cancellaris; Filii primogeniti Colissimi, Potentissimi & Excellentissimi Monarchæ Georgii Secundi, Dei Gratia Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ Regis, Fidei Defensoris. Obiit Vicesimo Die Martii Anno MDCCL.

Ætatis suæ XLV.

Though the life of a prince depends on as slender a thread as that of any other mortal, yet the prospects, hopes, and expectations, attached to the continuation of it, are so numerous and great, that it is impossible for any person not to feel himself affected in a peculiar manner when that thread is suddenly snapped asunder. But where the natural disposition of a prince, the bias it had taken from his education, and the inflexible bent it had contracted by long habitude, were such, that there was the most well-founded reason to believe that he was formed and improved most especially to promote the felicity of that people, over whom he was, in the course of nature, destined one day to govern: the stroke, therefore, that deprives a whole nation of such a security for its future well-being, must be regarded as a most serious affliction.

That his royal highness had very extensive views of the interests of Great Britain, depending on liberty and industry at home, and on commerce abroad, is undeniable. Almost every public step which he took for the last twenty years of his life, places this matter beyond all dispute; and a temper which could, with equal decorum and dignity, pass through all the vicissitudes to which the rage and artifice of factions occasionally exposed him, could not be suspected of any design to encroach on those liberties of which he always appeared in

fact, as well as in words, to be a constant and zealous assertor.

That he was heartily convinced the felicity of a prince depends on the love and affection of his people, was evident from the means which he took, in addition to those which constantly operated in his presence, and were inseparable from his constitutional character to procure and cultivate that love and affection. His several tours to different parts of the kingdom, the information he took pains to acquire from manufacturers and artificers of different kinds; the gracious manner in which he received and answered every address; the placid and satisfied countenance with which he looked upon every individual, are such irrefragable proofs of an honest heart, humane inclinations, and an ambition of the most laudable kind, as can scarcely be suspected by the most malignant interpreter of other men's actions of the least equivocation.

The polite and ornamental arts which long enjoyed his patronage and encouragement, on the first of subjects, had the greatest reason to rely on his protection and nurture, if Heaven had permitted him to become a sovereign; that he possessed a most refined taste, as well as an entire love of those arts; and, at the same time, that he was fully sensible of the advantages they bestow on a polite and opulent people, every professor of eminence of that period was ready to testify.

His character, as a husband, was unimpeachable; as a father, he was most tender and indulgent. The partial historian has endeavoured to prove, that his young and princely offspring could not lose by the decease of a father, such as it was the aim of the hostile party to depict him; but it was the base calumny of the times which detracted from his merit, and which used every endeavour to prevent him

from appearing in that exalted light which was so justly his due. If we trace the early character of our late sovereign, we cannot discover a single lineament which would entitle us to conclude, that his parent had neglected him; the precepts, indeed, of a parent are instilled with an efficacy which seldom attends other instruction; and the instruction of a prince should consist of such noble and elevated lessons, that the youth, who is born to royalty, must be peculiarly happy if he has a royal tutor.

One of the most celebrated historians of the age in which Frederick lived, has transmitted to us the following short outline of his character:

"As the condescending sweetness of his manners enchanted all who had the honour to approach him; so that sweetness arose from a source of benevolence and philanthropy which seemed inexhaustible. How many individuals has his charity relieved! How many his munificence rewarded! How many families whose well-being depended on his bounty, are already in sack-cloth and ashes for his irreparable loss! How high a place had he assigned the arts and sciences in his esteem! What royal notions had he entertained of royal munificence! How studiously had he considered the difficulties and distresses of this declining country! How anxiously had he sought a remedy! And how determined was he, to apply it when found, if ever the power of applying it fell into his hands! His very foibles, when traced to their origin, fall very little short of praise; for they proceeded from an over-ardent desire to please and to excel, from too fond and eager a passion for glory, and too impatient an ambition to be distinguished as much by his importance as by his rank; which was no otherwise in his power than as he had the dexterity and ingenuity to create his own opportunities."

It may be affirmed without fear of contradiction, that, in the delineation of the character of Frederick prince of Wales, neither cotemporary historians, nor those of a later period, have done that justice to it which it deserved. It appeared, indeed, to be the fashion of the histo-

rians of his own time, to throw all his bright qualities into the back-ground, and to paint, in the most conspicuous colours, those frailties which he possessed as a human being, and from which his exalted station did not render him exempt. The character of his royal highness, his behaviour in all his domestic relations, as well as in those, the exercise of which he assumed as a prince and a patriot, have been most largely expatiated on, and approved and admired by all his contemporaries of every rank and degree, with the exception of those who were immediately connected with a particular party, and who found it their interest to magnify his faults and depreciate his talents. It would be diverging from the truth to invest the character of his royal highness with splendid abilities, with great classical acquirements, or with that commanding genius, from which alone can proceed an original mode of thought or action; but I think there is a comparative light in which his royal highness has not been viewed, and which will redound not only to his advantage, but to the discomfiture of those who have been induced, by party motives, to ascribe to him such an extraordinary degree of moral turpitude. The comparison I mean is, with the most eminent of his predecessors, as princes of Wales, on whose virtues and abilities the felicity of the nation has so materially depended for the last 500 years.

Edward of Carnarvon, the first English prince of Wales, has no claim either to that quality, nor in the royal one to which he afterwards attained, to be here brought upon the list. The name of Frederick, prince of Wales, should not be mentioned with a prince who so shamefully and disgracefully abused the conjugal state. There are but few examples, not only amongst princes, but amongst men in general, of such tenderness and fidelity in the married state, as

the people of this country had to contemplate during the life of the father of our late monarch.

Edward of Windsor, long afterwards illustrious by the style and title of king Edward III., had got a blemish in his princely character, from which indeed he was early removed, but which nevertheless throws him at a distance in the comparison with Frederick. There is no excuse for him but his youth, for the act which advanced him to sovereignty. The assumption of a crown during the life-time of a legal possessor, especially if it be a son who assumes it from the father, must always be considered as one of those great state crimes, which nothing but a life of the most illustrious royal merit can afterwards efface. Here, instead of looking for traits of simularity which it would be impossible ever to find, let us only consider the modest and submissive deportment of Frederick under all those shades through which he was obliged to pass, during the intervention of those malignant bodies which continually intruded themselves between him and the light of that countenance in which he rejoiced.

Edward the Black Prince is acknowledged to make the most exact parallel with Frederick prince of Wales. In all those relations of life which they tried in common, it is difficult to say which was the most virtuous and admirable. Goodness of heart was the principle by which alone they both were influenced, from which it results that their transactions with mankind could not be widely different. Edward indeed had the advantage on the side of fortune, by being early intrusted with the command of armies, admitted to the most secret and important councils, and appointed to the government of provinces, which in those days were little inferior to England itself.

If modern policy does not permit an heir apparent to be intrusted with such weighty

matters, it does not therefore follow that Frederick prince of Wales was deficient in those talents for any trust or employment that was consistent with his exalted station. It is indeed true, that he was very seldom called upon to take an active part in the administration of the affairs of the country, but this ought to be attributed more to the repugnance which he felt in co-operating with the ministers of the day, than to an actual want of talent. It should, indeed, not be forgotten, that on several occasions wherein his own rights and those of the people were either openly disputed or fallaciously undermined, Frederick discovered a firmness which would have conferred honour on the most distinguished character; by which he obtained the full possession of what was originally given to support his dignity, but which the corrupt and insolent tools of power would have diverted apart to their own nefarious purposes. By these means he contributed so largely to repel the pestilence of ministerial infection from those parts of the kingdom where he had immediate authority, that to him must be principally ascribed the measures which were taken by the house of commons to overthrow the leviathan of power, and which began, but had not perseverance to complete, an inquiry into several years of an administration which no one had the effrontery nor the assurance to say was not corrupt.

Passing by Richard of Bourdeaux, the next prince of Wales worthy of mention is Henry of Monmouth, afterwards the celebrated conqueror of France, king Henry V. When Englishmen talk of their Edwards and Henrys, Edward III. and Henry V. are the names they love to commemorate; if then on a comparison with either of these, Frederick should not be a loser; we need be under no apprehension from the remaining characters which

on this occasion may be brought upon the stage.

We will here take notice of the little blemishes which some curious and critical eyes, in the plenitude of their penetration, were pleased to discover in the conduct of Frederick. These, to make the most of them, can never be extended beyond the unguarded overflowings of an excellent and unsuspecting nature. It has been considered by many who cannot permit exalted rank to lose an iota of its dignity, that the condescension and affability which Frederick generally displayed, betrayed him into the neglect of that dignity which princes ought to observe even in their diversions. But ought the popular and innocent excursions of Frederick prince of Wales to be mentioned, when we reflect on the extravagant outrages committed by Henry of Monmouth, in concert with the vilest and meanest outlaws amongst his father's subjects. It is not, however, meant to screen Frederick from that censure which is justly due to him, in having on several occasions taken his children on his excursions, from which no possible good could accrue to them; but this is to be attributed more to an error of judgment than to an actual dereliction of moral principle; and, certainly perfection belongs no more to the prince than to the peasant.

Edward, the son of Henry VI. appears to have been a prince of great spirit, but having been villanously cut off in the bloom of life, before his character was completely formed, it is perhaps sufficient to mention him in this summary manner. The same may be said of the other young Edwards, the sons of Edward IV.

Henry VII. and James I. were the two kings of England who gave each of them two princes of Wales to their respective generations.

Arthur was a prince of some hopes, but died very early. Henry Stuart was farther advanced towards manhood, and discovered as many great and sublime qualities, as perhaps ever appeared in a prince of the same age. Whether it were a jealousy of the operation of those qualities, or only the natural attack of a disease that deprived his country of a prince of so much hope, is not here the question. It is merely sufficient to state, that he did not live to an age that might entitle him to be put in comparison with prince Frederick.

By the death of Arthur and Henry, their younger brothers Henry Tudor and Charles Stuart, (both of them designed by their fathers for the priesthood,) came to be possessed of all their rights, and severally succeeded to the crown. Their characters in the administration of government are well known.

This comparative sketch of the characters of the princes of Wales, has been undertaken merely with a view of rescuing the character of the father of George III. from that obloquy which malice or ignorance has attached to it. There is no writer who has attempted to delineate his character, that has been so flagrantly guilty of wilful misrepresentation as Horace Walpole. His pen appears to be dipped in gall whenever he mentions his royal highness, and no one can read the following character which Horace Walpole draws of the illustrious ancestors of Frederick, without feeling a high degree of pity for the ignorance which it displays: "I recollect," he says, in one of his letters, "none of his ancestors eminent in arms,

and that any of the family should have a real taste for letters or the arts, would be little short of a miracle." It is, indeed, very true, that Frederick quarrelled with his father, and George II. quarrelled also with his, but that is no reason why they should be "worthless sons," as Horace Walpole expresses himself; and, it should be taken into consideration, that the father of Frederick seldom forgave an injury, or an affront*. We have only to refer to the genealogy of the Brunswick family, to convict this consummate courtier of the most deliberate falsity.

One of the first acts which claimed the attention of government after the decease of the prince of Wales, was the probability of the demise of the king at his advanced stage of life, before prince George, then prince of Wales, should have attained to years of maturity, and consequently, as heir apparent to the crown, the reins of government might devolve to him at an age when he would be incapacitated to perform the functions of the sovereign, and thereby involve the country in all the anarchy and confusion which are in general the attendants of a protracted minority. Taking therefore this important subject into consideration, the following message was sent by his majesty to parliament, on the 26th of April 1751.

GEORGE R.

His majesty, having it entirely at heart to secure the future welfare and happiness of his people, has maturely considered, that nothing can conduce so much (under the protection of divine Providence) to the preservation of

* This is particularly exemplified in the behaviour of George II. to Miss Ballenden, of whom, when he was prince, he was highly enamoured; but on the other hand, he was cordially hated by her. She was indeed exquisitely beautiful, and was the ornament of his father's court, as her countrywoman Miss Stuart had been of that of Charles II. She married colonel Campbell, afterwards duke of Argyle. After her marriage, her former royal lover, piqued by her disdain, seldom failed to step up when at court, and utter such cruel things to her, that she was often obliged to retire. This was most ungenerous conduct, and very unlike that of Henry IV. of France, who praised the lady for saying to him, "That the only path to her chamber, lay through the church."

the Protestant succession in his royal family, and the support of the religion, laws, and liberties of these kingdoms (which have been always most dear to him) as the making proper provisions for the care and tuition of the person of his successor, and for the regular administration of the government, in case such successor should be of tender years; by means whereof their safety and princely education may be secured, the public peace and good order maintained, and the strength and glory of the crown of Great Britain suffer no diminution. For these reasons, his majesty, out of his paternal affection and tenderness for his royal family, and for all his faithful subjects, earnestly recommends it to both houses of parliament, to take this weighty affair into their most serious deliberation; and proposes to their consideration, that, when the imperial crown of these realms shall descend to any of the issue of his son, the late prince of Wales, being under the age of eighteen years, the princess dowager of Wales, their mother, should be guardian of the person of such successor, and regent of these kingdoms, until they shall attain such age; with such powers, and limitations, as shall appear necessary and expedient for these important purposes.

And on the same day the lords agreed to the following address to his majesty:

The humble address of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in parliament assembled, April 26, 1751.

We your majesty's most dutiful and most loyal subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in parliament assembled, approach your royal throne, with hearts filled, at the same time, with the deepest sense of gratitude to your majesty, and with the most serious and anxious concern for the future welfare of our country.

To return your majesty our thanks for your most gracious message, falls infinitely short of those sentiments with which the subject of it inspires us. It excites in us the most sensible feeling of all those blessings, which we have enjoyed, during your auspicious and glorious reign; of the mildness and benignity of your government; and of that constant protection, which your majesty has always extended to our religion, laws, and liberties; which you have demonstrated by your conduct, as well as declared by your royal words, to be most dear to you. Happy would it be for all your faithful subjects, if Heaven, in mercy to these kingdoms, would graciously permit a reign, so distinguished with every mark of good-

ness, that can endear a British monarch to his people, to be prolonged beyond the ordinary date. To look forward to its period, anticipates a grief, which no words can express. Your majesty's greatness of mind, shewn in your message, has called upon us, and set us the example, to enter into such considerations, as the high importance of the occasion requires.

Not content with being the great instrument of our happiness, during your own time, your majesty has pointed out to us a generous concern to provide for the continuance of that happiness (as far as human foresight can do), after God shall have deprived us of the inestimable blessing of your immediate care. In return for this paternal goodness, permit us to assure your majesty that we will lose no time in taking into our consideration the weighty affair laid before us in your message.

We are truly sensible of the high and eminent qualities of her royal highness, the princess dowager of Wales; and we look upon what your majesty has been graciously pleased to propose to our consideration, as the result of your wisdom and tender concern for your royal family, and the interests of these kingdoms; and we shall have the most dutiful regard of what your majesty has been pleased so wisely to recommend.

In our deliberations on this important subject, we shall think it our duty, as well as our essential interest, to have the strictest and most zealous attention to the preservation of the protestant succession, as settled by law, in your royal family; the numerous hopeful branches whereof, formed by your instruction, and led by your example, we look upon as so many pledges of the security of our religious and civil rights to future generations.

May it please the divine Providence to grant your majesty such confirmed health, and length of days, as may render those provisions, which your wisdom has suggested to us on this occasion, unnecessary in the event; that we may very long enjoy the benefits of your gracious government; and your majesty the dutiful and affectionate returns of a most obliged, loyal, and grateful people.

His majesty's most gracious answer.

My lords and gentlemen,

I return you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The zeal you express for me, and my family, and the sense you shew of my care and concern for the interest of my people, is very agreeable to me.

On the 8th of May, the duke of Newcastle delivered the following message to the house of lords from the king:

GEORGE R.

The house of peers having under their deliberation his majesty's message relating to the making proper provisions for the regular administration of the government, in case his successor should be under the age of eighteen years, until such successor shall attain that age; his majesty thinks fit to propose to their consideration, that, for the assistance of such person as shall be appointed regent of the kingdom during that time, a council may be constituted, with such particular powers only as shall appear to be reasonable and expedient; and that his majesty's most dear son William duke of Cumberland, the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, or keeper of the great seal of Great Britain, the treasurer of Great Britain, or first commissioner of the treasury, the president of the council, the keeper of the privy seal, the high admiral of Great Britain, or first commissioner of the admiralty, the principal secretaries of state, and the chief justice of the king's bench, for the time being, may be members of such council.

The regency bill was brought from the lords to the commons on the 13th of May, and it will be necessary to enter into an enlarged view of the powers and restrictions of this bill; not only on account of the extraordinary degree of interest which it occasioned at the time, but also as it will be found that it was acted upon as a precedent, when the unfortunate situation of our late monarch rendered the appointment of a regency necessary.

The first clause enacted,

I. If the crown shall descend to any of the children of his late royal highness Frederick prince of Wales, the princess, his dowager, shall be regent of the kingdom, and guardian of such child until it shall arrive at the age of eighteen years.

II. All acts of regal power done otherwise than by her royal highness during her regency, shall be void.

III. There shall be a council of regency to assist her royal highness, consisting of the duke of Cumberland,

and such persons as for the time being shall be archbishop of Canterbury, lord chancellor, lord treasurer, lord president of the council, lord privy seal, lord high admiral, the principal secretaries of state, and the lord chief justice of the King's Bench, together with any other four whom his present majesty shall appoint.

[This clause occasioned one of the most vehement debates ever heard within the walls of the House of Lords: 220 peers were present at the third reading of it, and it was debated through every one of its stages.]

IV. The council shall meet and sit as her royal highness shall direct; any five, but not a less number, shall act, and of this council the duke of Cumberland shall be chief or head.

V. The princess shall take an oath to execute the office of regent, and the members of the council to execute their respective offices according to this act.

VI. The regent and council shall qualify themselves as for offices of trust.

VII. Upon the demise of the present king, the privy council shall meet, and cause his successor to be proclaimed, under the penalty of high treason.

VIII. The consent of the majority of five, or more, of the council shall be necessary in all creations, pardons, gifts, grants, dispositions, instructions, orders, or authorities.

IX. The regent shall not make war or peace, or ratify treaties, prorogue, adjourn, or dissolve, any parliament, without the consent of the council; nor give the royal assent to any act for altering the succession.

X. The regent shall not remove the officers of the crown, who, by virtue of their offices, are of the council, from such offices, without the consent of the majority of the whole council, or the address of parliament.

XI. Vacancies by death, or removal, to be filled up by the regent in two months, with the consent of the major part of the council, and not otherwise.

XII. The parliament in being at the descent of the crown to a minor, if no parliament then in being, the preceding parliament, shall continue three years; except the minor be sooner of age, or the parliament be dissolved by the regent with consent of council.

XIII. If the minor marries without the consent of the regent and council, such marriage shall be void, and all persons concerned, guilty of high-treason.

XIV. If, on any question, the division of the council be equal, the regent has the casting vote.

XV. All commissions, letters patent, and to change the order of government established by this act, shall be void, and all persons concerned, incur a præmunire.

XVI. The act of 28 Hen. VIII. and 1 Edw. VI. shall be repealed.

The objections to this bill were not only numerous, but they were supported by some of the leading characters of the country, both in talent and influence; they were principally founded on the restrictions of the power of the regent, taking into consideration the confessed public and private virtues of her royal highness, and the necessary and inseparable connexion of her interest with that of her son; but with every proper allowance for those virtues and that connexion, the restrictions of the bill were considered as necessary for the following reasons.

The bill in the first place was openly avowed to be a precedent for future times, by which no power ought to be intrusted to the virtuous, which would become dangerous, when by a natural succession of events, it should devolve upon the vicious; and, from this very reason, our ancestors have chosen to transmit to us rather a limited than an absolute monarchy, though they were not ignorant at the same time that a power to do good was limited by the same regulations which restrained a power to do ill; and, that an absolute monarchy was the most eligible form of government, if it were possible to ensure a succession of princes whose sagacity could discover the public interest, and whose virtue would pursue it. It was, indeed, objected to at the time, that there was a specious degree of arrogance in supposing that the regency bill which had been planned without any regard to former precedents, should be regarded as an inviolable precedent in times to come; but, however weak

the then existing administration was represented, and, however vigilant, faithful, and magnanimous, future parliaments might be imagined, it could not be denied, that if hereafter a person of great influence, perhaps a presumptive heir to the crown, should produce a precedent of unlimited power, which had been attended with honour to the regent, and felicity to the people, it would still be very difficult to prevent its being followed by a majority in both houses of parliament; and that the regency of her royal highness, if she should be invested with unlimited power, would be honourable and happy could not be doubted, because her abilities to execute so important a trust were universally acknowledged. A still greater degree of probability existed that this precedent would be followed, if it were taken into consideration that upon the very next emergency, if the person to be appointed regent could not safely be intrusted with sovereign power, this could never be given as a reason for departing from a precedent in his favour; it could not be said, that although the power of the princess dowager of Wales was not limited, yet that the shackles of restriction were not necessary to confine the hands of tyranny, and shorten the strides of ambition.

As on reverting to the former periods of our history, it was evident that a minority had often produced calamity and confusion, it became necessary that some general law should immediately take place; and certainly the public tranquillity, and the right of the young prince would be more effectually secured, if it were established as a general rule, that a regent be appointed together with a council, which should at once resist and restrain, than that a sole regent be immediately invested with sovereign power and authority; and, although this bill was allowed to be unprece-

dented, it was perhaps only so on one point, namely, that the queen mother was appointed regent; for history confirms it, that the establishment of a council of regency has been the practice of our ancestors ever since the Conquest, except in the case of the earl of Pembroke, during the minority of Henry III., and of Richard duke of Gloucester, in the minority of Edward V. The regency of the latter was rather an usurped than a delegated power, and the use which he made of it is the strongest reason why it should not be suffered to be intrusted to the hands of another. It must, however, be confessed, that the minority of Henry III., and that of George III., bear no analogy to each other. Henry III. was an infant of nine years of age when his father died, at the time of whose death the greatest part of the kingdom was in rebellion, and the dauphin of France in conjunction with the English barons, was in possession of the capital of the kingdom. The father of the young king was a most infamous and wicked prince, and had by every art sought to deprive the barons and people of England of their liberty. They like wise and brave men defended the blessings of freedom with the utmost resolution and fortitude, and at the expense of their blood procured us that liberty which we now enjoy. These were the men who obtained the Magna Charta, the bulwark of our present constitution. These barons when they found themselves too weak to defend their liberties without foreign assistance, called on the French to their aid, and thus matters stood when king John died. But no sooner was the father dead, than all resentment to his infant son vanished. The brave and good earl of Pembroke produced his royal ward to the assembly of barons, and by a very short but pathetic speech, turned

every man present to his allegiance, and he was chosen by the great lords, guardian of the person of the king and regent of the kingdom, without any council of regency whatever, at least no mention of such can be found in history; but even granted, that a council of regency was then appointed, and the power of the regent exceedingly limited and circumscribed, by having the great offices of the realm, the great seal, and the king's castles intrusted in the hands of the great lords and barons of the realm, it does not therefore follow as a natural deduction, that what was good policy in other times, is also good policy at present. In those times the barons were just emerged from a cruel and dangerous war for the defence of their just rights and privileges, against the usurpation of a most profligate and audacious king; they were therefore unwilling to trust the great offices of the crown, and the custody of the castles to any single person (although a very good man,) acting for and in behalf of the crown, lest the means and opportunity might be given of acting the same bloody tragedy over again.

In the present case of the regency, however, the case was very different, the prince was, it is true, a minor, the son of a gentle, humane father, universally beloved when living, universally regretted when dead; whereas Henry III. was the son of a father universally hated and detested whilst living, and lamented by no man when dead. The mother of our late sovereign was then so much in the esteem of the whole nation, that malevolence had not then dared to attack her fame, and no princess ever seemed more fitted for government. Moreover, she could have no interest but the preservation of her children and family; to which may be added, that the laws of the kingdom allow

the sceptre of this realm to be swayed by the hands of women, and they have governed to the honour and glory of this nation.

One of the principal objections to a council of regency was, that it would expose the country to the confusion and misery of contending parties, each of which would have no other view than the exalting or enriching itself to the general detriment of the country; and thus the business of the nation would be neglected, and possibly its interests betrayed, either by the prevailing party for lucre, or by the inferior for revenge. It must, however, be universally confessed, that faction is less likely to overturn the constitution, and to perpetrate irreparable wrongs, than usurpation: it becomes, therefore, of greater moment to guard against usurpation than faction. Nor were those fears of the effects of factions, and the dreadful consequences produced by them, justified either by experience or founded upon reason; for, during the minorities of Edward III. and Richard II., there appears to have been no faction in the councils of regency, but on the contrary, the misfortunes which the nation then suffered, arose from the implicit consent of the council to whatever the regent proposed; and, consequently, from the regency becoming sole and sovereign in fact, though it was limited and divided in form and in name. There was, indeed, a division in the council of regency during the minority of Henry VI., but it was such a division as a council of regency is intended to produce, an opposition to a violent and imprudent attempt to the establishment of the king of England upon the throne of France, the success of which would have been the greatest calamity that could have befallen the nation. In the minority of Edward V. there was no council, and therefore there could be no opposition; but it is indisputably to be

wished that a council had been appointed by act of parliament before the death of his father, and that some of them at least had vigorously opposed the ambition of Richard III. It is indeed true, that in the government during the minority of Edward VI. certain factions existed which produced confusion and debility in the state; but this was the effect of his father's folly, who appointed an impracticable government, of which such confusion was the inevitable consequence. He appointed a council of sixteen without any regent or pre-eminence, and another council of twelve, without whose advice the sixteen were not to act, and none of whom they had power to remove; besides, each council of the twelve and sixteen was composed partly of Protestants, and partly of Papists, equally zealous, restless and impotent. The divisions and factions, therefore, that distressed that minority, are by no means to be ascribed to the appointment of a council of regency, but to the non-appointment of a regent, and the injudicious choice of the council, both with respect to its form, and the members of which it consisted. It does not, therefore, appear, that the fear of factions in such a council of regency as was proposed to be appointed by this bill was justified by experience; and if not justified by experience, that it could not be supported by reason; for, as mankind in general are the same, act from the same principles, and fall by the same temptations, the future is best inferred from the past; and, no better arguments can be advanced for the probability of a future event, than that it has happened before; so that Reason as well as Experience was in favour of the bill, for, if factions have not been the consequence of former councils of regency, it was improbable that they should be the consequence of this.

This bill was, however, rendered necessary

by a defect in our constitution, which was the intention, no doubt, of his majesty to obviate, by proposing to the consideration of his parliament the making a proper provision for the regular administration of government, if his successor should be a minor, for the king is never supposed to be a minor by law, but, upon his succession to the throne, becomes immediately invested with sovereign authority, and the whole executive power lodges in his hands, though an infant of but a month old; the consequence of which is, that he who, by whatever means, gets possession of the infant's person, is eventually possessed of legal authority and prerogative; and it was by this defect that the duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., intruded upon sovereign power, and perverted it to the destruction of those from whom it was derived. It is, indeed, enacted by the Stat. 8 William, that, upon the decease of the sovereign, the parliament shall meet, and that the session shall continue six months, but it is immediately added, unless the same shall be sooner prorogued or dissolved by the next heir to the crown, without any exception to exclude an infant, though of but a day old; so that if an infant be the next heir, whoever shall be in possession of his person may effectually prevent the parliament from acting, by dissolving or proroguing it as soon as it has met; and, as the law has not obliged them to call another, they may wait till they have found means to get such a parliament chosen as may give its sanction to every act of oppression and usurpation which has taken place, or which may be proposed.

The parliament therefore cannot be a sufficient check upon a sole regent invested with

sovereign authority, as its power may be so easily eluded; nor is this a mere speculative possibility, for the power of parliament was thus eluded by Richard III. while he was regent, and within one year he procured such members to be chosen as confirmed his usurpation; though when the king his brother died, there were nine persons* who would legally have succeeded to the crown before him.

It may therefore be allowed that this regency bill, without considering it as a precedent for future times, was calculated not only for the public benefit and for the security of the young king, but also for the ease, the safety, and honour of the regent. It was for the security of the prince, and the welfare of the public, that the regent was restrained from such acts as could admit of no remedy if they should appear to have been of pernicious consequence even by the king himself, when he had arrived at the age of maturity; but it was for the honour of the regent that she was invested with every other branch of sovereign authority; and, though she was restrained from the appointment of bishops and judges, who hold places for life, yet she was entitled by her sole power to appoint much more important officers for the time being, such as the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, the commander-in-chief of the army, the governors of the plantations, and many others; and, it was for her ease as well as for her safety that a council was appointed her, because the regent, as a subject, being still accountable for her conduct, it was of great moment to her that the consent and approbation of the chief officers of state to every important act of her government should be so authenticated, as that such consent and approbation

* Five daughters and two sons of the late king, and a son and a daughter of the duke of Clarence, who was Richard's elder brother.

might easily be made to appear for her justification, if any measure undertaken during her administration should be attended with unhappy consequences. Upon the whole, it is to be observed, that the opposition to this bill, as restraining the power of the regent by a council, and the zeal of many who are the known friends of liberty, for intrusting the princess dowager of Wales with a sovereign and unlimited authority, will stand upon record as a proof of the wisdom of George II. ; and, it must also be admitted, that the placing of this confidence in her royal highness was objected to for no other reason, than because it was thought to be inconsistent with the British constitution, to afford a precedent to posterity, which might hereafter be fatal to some of her royal highness's descendants, and to deprive her administration of a sanction which would at once add weight to her authority, wisdom to her councils, and security to her person.

As prince George was only thirteen years old when his father died, and George II. being not only at an advanced age, but at times very seriously afflicted with the gout, it was generally expected, according to the calculations of the extent of human life, that the regency bill would not remain a dead letter on the rolls of parliament ; and the courtiers, who wished to retain their places, and those who wished to ob-

tain them, not yet having any, were now more or less assiduous in their visits to Leicester-house, according as the report was circulated of the state of the king's health ; and, so great was the spirit of intrigue in those times, that when the king was once confined at Hanover with the gout, private messengers were despatched almost daily from that place with an exact statement of his health, and policies were then frequently underwritten, giving ten guineas to receive one hundred, if *a certain great personage* lived a twelvemonth. His majesty being informed of policies being privately opened for the insurance of his life, actually sent fifty guineas for five risks ; and, when at the expiration of the year the 500*l.* were paid him, he declared he never put 500*l.* with greater pleasure in his pocket, during the whole of his life*.

The management of the education of the prince of Wales now devolved chiefly upon lord Bute, who, though a man uncommonly gifted with talent, yet, as has been already observed, was a very unfit person to whom the education of a heir-apparent to the crown should have been confided. It was chiefly owing to the tory principles of Bute, that the commercial world was deprived of one of the most able works which was ever written upon the Elements of Commerce. The work has been briefly hinted at in Doddington's Diary, and was undertaken by the celebrated dean Tucker, on the recom-

* George II., who was in every respect a very parsimonious character, was by no means averse to gaming, and the method which he adopted of providing for his old servants and dependants, and for his benefactions to the different charities, is not generally known. His favourite game was hazard ; and previously to beginning the game, it was his invariable custom to declare on what individual, or on what charity he would bestow his winnings. He had a favourite German groom, who had been his regular attendant on all his journeys to Hanover, or as it was called in those days, his gaddings to his farm in Germany. This servant from old age and infirmity was unable to bear the fatigues of the journey, and of the extremely active life which his majesty pursued in Germany ; and his royal master, wishing therefore to provide for him, set apart the winnings of one night's play, and fortune being unusually propitious to him, his majesty won 3,000*l.*, the major part of which was lost by the duke of Cumberland. At another time he won 1,000*l.* for the Foundling Hospital, to which his majesty was particularly partial. On these occasions his majesty was accustomed to boast, that he did not burthen his country with the provision for his servants, for he made his friends provide for them.

moderation of the bishop of Bristol, expressly for the use and benefit of the prince of Wales. The history of the transaction shall be related in his own words, as it proves the right reverend dean to have been possessed of principles, which were by no means fitted for the corrupted atmosphere which then encircled the court; and it is also a melancholy instance of the injury which the education of our late revered monarch received from the baneful influence of party spirit. "This work," says dean Tucker, "was undertaken at the desire of Dr. Hayter, then lord bishop of Norwich, and preceptor to the prince of Wales, his (late) majesty. His lordship's design was to put into the hands of his royal pupil such a treatise as would convey both clear and comprehensive ideas on the subject of national commerce, freed from the narrow conceptions of ignorant, or the sinister views of crafty and designing men; and my honoured friend and reverend diocesan, the late lord bishop of Bristol, Dr. Conybeare, was pleased to recommend me as a person not altogether unqualified to write on such a subject; I therefore entered upon the work with all imaginary alacrity, and intended to entitle my performance—'The Elements of Commerce and Theory of Taxes;' but I had not made a great progress before I discovered, that such a work was by no means proper to be sheltered under the protection of royal patronage, on account of the many jealousies to

which it was liable, and the cavils which might be raised against it. In short, I soon found that there was scarcely a step I could take, but would bring to light some glaring absurdity, which the length of time had rendered sacred, and which the multitude would have been taught to contend for, as if all was at stake. Scarce a proposal could I make for introducing a free, generous and impartial system of national commerce, but it had such a number of popular errors to combat, as would have excited loud clamours, and fierce opposition; and therefore, as the herd of mock patriots are ever on the watch to seize on all opportunities of inflaming the populace, by misrepresentations and false alarms; and as the people are too apt to swallow every idle tale of this sort, I determined to give no occasion to those who continually seek occasion. In short, as I perceived I could not serve my prince by a liberal and unrestrained discussion of the points relative to these matters, I deemed it the better part to decline the undertaking, rather than do any thing, under the sanction of his patronage, which might be of disservice to him, in the eyes of others; for these reasons I laid the scheme aside; and if ever I should resume and complete it, the work shall appear without any patronage, protection, or dedication whatever*." Of this work, the failure of which cannot be too much regretted, parts only were printed, and distributed amongst his friends for correction. One was entitled,

* It is curious to trace the cause of the unjustifiable animosities which too often distinguish the lives of our most celebrated men. The circumstance of dean Tucker having written his "Elements of Commerce," gave rise to a serious quarrel between Dr. Warburton, afterwards bishop of Gloucester, and himself. Dr. Warburton was promoted to the see of Gloucester, from the deanery of Bristol, and the succession to the vacant deanery was supposed to lie between Dr. Squire and Dr. Tucker. A Mr. Allen had laid out a great sum of money in beautifying and repairing the deanery-house; and, as he was willing to complete his improvements, he inquired of bishop Warburton, what sort of men Doctors Squire and Tucker were. The bishop answered in his lively manner, that the one made religion his trade—and the other, trade his religion. This sarcasm was never forgiven by dean Tucker, although, it is said, the bishop, at the sacrament, took the cup as a token of amity, and addressed the dean, desiring an oblivion of past misunderstandings.

"Elements of Commerce," and the other, "Instructions for Travellers." It was short, but well executed. It gave rise to a heavy, dull, German publication, by Berchtholdt, which, was not only prolix and diffuse, but utterly deficient in that concentration which peculiarly characterized the tract of dean Tucker.

The prince of Wales was now fast verging to that period of life, when the generous feelings of the human heart begin to display themselves, and those attachments are formed, which either prove the bane or the happiness of our future life. A prince stands, as it were, upon the summit of an isolated hill, exposed to the view of all around him, and also to the shafts which malice may direct against him in the dark. That the prince of Wales might not have been fortunate in the choice of some of his associates is most certain, but that forms no good ground for the censure which was so indiscriminately attached to those persons who had the immediate control of his royal highness, and to whom he was, at that time, amenable for his conduct. People of an over-serious cast are inclined to blame a prince for choosing his associates among those who are addicted to gaiety and pleasure; but hilarity of disposition is certainly no proof either of levity or of negligence in the transaction of business; the most agreeable individuals are generally the most knowing and intelligent, and their company and conversation no less instructive than delighting. There is, at the same time, a close alliance between cheerfulness and probity; they naturally support each other, and are seldom found asunder. We sooner suspect the grave and morose than the mirthful and the gay.

If friendship be the balm of life, why should the condition of a prince be thought incapable of this greatest and most rational of all enjoyments; as with more severity than truth, it was

asserted in the case of our late monarch, when prince of Wales. Those who imagine that self-interest is the only motive that induces men to devote themselves to princes, forget that such an opinion equally degrades every association that may prove profitable, and represents human nature as invariably base and sordid. But experience has evinced, that all degrees of society are capable of generous feelings. Princes, therefore, when endowed with amiable qualities, have as much right to expect personal predilection as any other individuals; why, therefore, should they be excluded from the participation of that common blessing—friendship? as if it were, in the order of things, that they should be denied the supremest felicity of life.

A prince cannot, in fact, be happy, either in private or public life, to whom individuals of worth are not attached by that most endearing of all ties. How much then it behoves a prince to shew himself worthy of it on his side; unless, indeed, the attachment to him, as well as to any other man, be founded on affection arising from esteem, he has no right to expect any, and will certainly find none. But then, said the carping, cavilling, stiff-starched, moralists of the day, Would the prince of Wales have been guilty of those follies, which at times distinguished his early years, if he had not selected those characters for his associates, which were themselves vicious and unruly? And what were those follies? were they the consequences of degenerate turpitude, or of the precarious attachment to vicious propensities? Yes,—he did, indeed, in the company of his associates, and in the full swing of youthful mischief, break open the wells in the fishing punts at Brentford, and stole all the fish from them; some poor people in the vicinity of Kew received the fish, and the fishermen obtained quadruple the value of their property.

The head gardener at Kew had one day ordered half-a-dozen donkeys, who were luxuriously regaling themselves on the royal herbage, to be put into the pound. Neither the prince of Wales, nor his brother Edward, saw any crime in the act which the asses had committed, and, assisted by a few of his associates, the animals were soon at liberty; and having once tasted of the sweets of the royal pastures, they were soon seen frisking about them again, to the no small delight of their liberators.

But as a proof of the *vengeful* disposition of the young prince, the following story was circulated. His tutor had one day most severely reprimanded him for a neglect of his studies; and the prince, like all other youths who undergo correction, conceived that the trivial fault which he had committed was by no means commensurate to the reproof with which he had been visited. The harangue of the tutor closed with a positive injunction that in future he should *stick closer* to his studies. A wig was in those days an indispensable appendage to gentlemen of the liberal professions; but it does not follow that a tutor at that time, because he wore a wig was consequently more fitted for the important duties of his station, than a lawyer in our days, because he wears a wig, is by its virtue endowed with a knowledge of the laws of the country. It is certain that the prince of Wales entertained a high degree of regard for his tutor, but his severe injunction of *sticking close* to his studies, had a particular dissonant sound, which was very grating to the ears of his royal highness, and he resolved, if he *stuck close*, he would not be charged with singularity in the

world. On the great arm-chair which was appropriated for the person of his tutor, was a cushion, moveable at pleasure; on this cushion the prince deposited a small portion of pitch, which being brought into a state of softness by the warmth of the tutor's body, its adhesive powers were called into action; and when the tutor rose, the cushion either stuck so close to him, or he to the cushion, that it appeared as an ornamental appendage to him. But this was not all; in the interior of the full-bottomed wig, a small portion of the same resinous ingredient was deposited, which, owing perhaps to its proximity to a heated brain, gradually diffused itself over the head and caused the wig to stick so close that it could not be detached without the aid of scissors, leaving that portion of the wig upon the head, where the pitch had exercised its influence*.

These and other such like follies, the effect of the thoughtlessness and inconsideration of youth, were quoted as proofs of the dangerous consequences which would result to the young prince by an attachment to the associates which he had then selected for himself. His censurers saw not in those acts, merely the warm ebullition of a youthful temper joined to a knowledge of the high station which he filled, and therefore uneasy under every species of restraint, but they saw in them also the future indication of a vicious and dissolute prince.

History, however, furnishes abundant proof that the greatest and wisest princes have had their friends and intimates, and were evidently indebted to them for much of their fame and prosperity. Henry IV. of France, for instance,

* I beg leave thus publicly to acknowledge, in the most grateful manner, the kindness which I have received from one of the most enlightened noblemen of the present age, and who possesses one of the first private libraries in the world, in permitting me to transcribe the above incidents from a most scarce work, entitled "*Nursery Anecdotes, or a Prince's Frolics.*" The publication of this work was evidently undertaken with the most sinister views, but which were happily frustrated by the energetic measures of one of the most celebrated politicians of his times.

and Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden were both peculiarly fortunate in this respect; the first in the friendship of Sully, the second in that of Oxenstiern. The attachment of Sully to Henry had been tried in the worst of times. When that monarch was reduced to the most mortifying extremities, and it became very doubtful whether he would be able to make good his claims to the crown of France, Sully sold his patrimony to relieve his master's wants. The sincerity of Oxenstiern's affection had also been manifested by substantial proofs. In return they both possessed the unlimited confidence of their respective sovereigns.

Let those who inveigh so bitterly against friendships between kings and subjects, cite an example of two princes that were better served, whose affairs were more successfully and more faithfully managed; who were, in short, wiser and happier in the united choice of their friends and ministers, than Henry and Gustavus; they are an illustrious refutation of that austere and gloomy notion, that no sincerity of friendship, no sentimental union, can subsist between a subject and a king.

But what an injurious imputation on the character of princes and of kings! If ever the sternness of republicanism meant a degradation of royalty, it was surely by fabricating this base idea. The hateful notion that a king is incapable of friendly attachment, is founded on the rankest hatred to his station, and in a wicked desire to render it odious by representing sovereignty as incompatible with the feelings of humanity, and warning them as it were to expect no return of benevolence from the possessors of supreme power.

The clamour which was raised against the associates of the prince of Wales, may however be traced more to political intrigue, than to any fear of the destruction or the deterioration of his mo-

ral nature. His companions were the younger branches of the nobility, whose political sentiments were in direct opposition to those professed by the nobleman who had the superintendence of his education, whose aim it appears to have been, to have formed the prince according to his own model, and whose chief anxiety it appears to have been, to prevent his royal highness from receiving any other impression than what he pleased should be given to him. In this instance lord Bute committed an egregious error, for nothing will more powerfully contribute to render a British monarch amply acquainted with the merits of the numerous men of parts in his kingdom, and especially with the talents and virtues of persons of high rank, than to have been long conversant in the world, previously to his accession to the crown. Environed by a young and spirited nobility and gentry, who feel their future consequence in the scale of government, he will find them unawed by any slavish fears in the respect they pay to his person, and will be actuated by every motive to live with them as his companions, and to profit by the lessons of freedom, which he has daily opportunities of learning from those unrestrained effusions with which high-minded youth and conscious independence will naturally inspire them.

By long dwelling among such associates, his mind will be seasoned betimes with just notions of things. He will be taught experimentally to discern the good and the bad qualities that pass in continual variety before his eyes; will form instructive connexions; he will have numerous opportunities to pry into mankind; he will mix with all ranks and professions, and acquire an extensive knowledge of life; and when he arrives at sovereignty, he will have been a man among men, and will be thereby better qualified to rule over them.

With the demise of the prince of Wales began the secluded life of the royal mother of our late sovereign. The king now and then paid her a formal visit, but it was not from personal regard to herself, but to ascertain the truth of some insidious reports which were conveyed to him, respecting the management of the youthful branches of the family. Her happiness appeared to be centred in her children, and she preferred the pleasures of domestic life to the ceremony and turmoil of a court. It appeared to be her particular wish to prosecute the plans laid down by her departed prince for the encouragement of native industry; and the journals of that period represent her as frequently visiting the tapestry manufactory at Battersea, under the direction of Monsieur Parisot; and it appeared to be her ardent wish, that this country might be enabled to rival the French in that difficult branch of the arts. Her royal highness would never allow one of her domestics to appear in any article of foreign manufacture, and so great was the force of her patriotic example in this respect, that the rage for French fashions gradually subsided, and towards the latter period of the reign of George II., the court-dresses were entirely of British manufacture; and, by her influence alone, some very heavy duties were imposed on the admission of French manufactures into this country. It was well for our late monarch that the attention to the commercial interests of the country was so conspicuously displayed by his illustrious mother, as it stamped on his juvenile mind those indelible impressions of the real sources of the greatness of his kingdom, which, at a future period of his life, displayed themselves in so conspicuous a manner. On the other hand, the integrity or the aggrandizement of his favourite electorate appeared to absorb, for a time, the whole atten-

tion of the king. His coffers in England were drained to liquidate his enormous purchases in Hanover, and literature and the arts were neglected for the sword or the truncheon. Never were two characters more dissimilar than those of George II. and his son Frederick, the father of our lamented monarch. The former appeared to found his greatness in camps and military deeds; he loved to encounter the bustling front of war, at a distance from his kingdom, rather than, surrounded by the native genius of his kingdom, infuse life and vigour into the arts, the literature, and the declining commerce of the country. The latter appeared to hate the horrid dissonance of war: his ideas of the greatness of a nation rested not on its military exploits, nor on the number of killed and wounded which disfigure its annals. It was to the arts and sciences that he directed his attention; he collected around him some of the most eminent literary characters of the age, for he was convinced that the principal erudition of a king should consist in literature and morals. They are the foundation of all that dignifies human nature; they form the understanding to solidity and elegance, and prepare men for a right perception of propriety, and of true taste in all their undertakings. It is chiefly by the encouragement of those arts that polish and illuminate the mind, that the greatest princes have manifested the goodness of their understanding, and obtained the highest reputation: even those monarchs, whose education, from untoward accidents or shameful carelessness, has been neglected, if otherwise endowed with parts, have perceived the necessity of acting in this manner.

The celebrated emperor Charlemagne and Louis XIV. were, at very distant ages from each other, conspicuous instances of this truth. The education of both had been extremely neg-

lected, and they were, in consequence, illiterate; yet, through the happy force of their native genius, they felt the merit of learning, and though they attained only to a moderate share themselves, they became the most eminent protectors of science and literary men of any princes recorded in history.

It has been the aim of a cotemporary writer to represent Frederick, prince of Wales, as a weak and insignificant prince; and he concludes his strictures with the climax, that our late monarch could not possibly lose any thing by the decease of such a father. It is an aspersion as unjust as it is ill-founded, and at variance with all the historical registers of the age in which Frederick lived. If we examine the channels which were opened to him after the decease of his father, for the acquirement of that knowledge which ought to be deeply impressed upon the mind of a prince, and without which, on his accession to the throne, he will necessarily become the dupe of designing men, we shall find, with the exception of that which he acquired under the maternal roof, and as far as the king, his grandfather, was concerned, that it consisted of elaborate discourses on bastions, trenches, and chevaux-de-frise, and a minute exposition of the chances of hazard and comet; and as a proof of the great contempt with which his majesty regarded the visits of the dowager princess of Wales to the different manufactories, in which she was generally attended by her sons, the following anecdote will serve. His majesty called one day at Saville-house for the purpose of visiting the royal children; when he was informed that they were gone with their mother to the tapestry manufactory at Battersea. "D—n dat tapestry," his majesty exclaimed, turning to the marquis of Huntingtop who accompanied him, "I shall have all de princes made women of." His ma-

jesty took his leave; but he called again on the following morning, and on entering the house, he exclaimed, "Gone to de tapestry again?" On being answered in the negative, he ordered the young princes to be sent immediately to Hyde-Park; as he had *oder tings to shew dem dan needles and treads*. This was a review of the royal regiment of artillery, and his majesty actually walked to Hyde-Park, accompanied by the princess Augusta. This circumstance gave rise to some unpleasant altercation between the king and the princess dowager of Wales; for, on the latter being informed of the expression which his majesty had used, regarding her visits to the tapestry manufactory, she retorted upon his majesty by declaring, that if he thought the view of a manufactory was beneath the attention of her sons, she considered the sight of a review to be attended with no benefit to her daughter. She was evidently out of her place, but she was not so certain whether she had placed her sons out of theirs.

Kings are not warriors by profession; when the safety or the honour of the country requires it, let not the sword remain in the scabbard; but princes cannot be too early taught that benignity, which is only a less refulgent term for patriotism, is the most splendid ornament of a throne. The monarchs who have lived the longest in the affectionate remembrance of their people, are much oftener those who have distinguished themselves by their goodness of heart and beneficent exertions, than such as were only famous for their exploits and warlike abilities. In this instance can any parallel be established between Frederick and his father. The minutiae of life appeared indeed to claim the attention of the former, and that very disposition gave a bias to the character of our late monarch, from which it never afterwards swerved. He may, in some respects, be compared to Henry

the Fourth of France, and what chiefly endears the memory of that prince to the French was, the paternal ardour with which he was wont so frequently to express his celebrated wish, that he might not die till he had enabled the poorest of his subjects to provide a fowl for his Sunday's dinner. What sublimity of patriotism in a homely expression! Let us compare this speech with that of Frederick prince of Wales, who when he sent one hundred guineas to the distressed weavers of Spitalfields, declared, he hoped he should see the time when there would not be a distressed artisan in the kingdom; and, let impartiality decide whether our late monarch did not lose by the decease of a parent, from whose heart could emanate so patriotic a sentiment. Among the many laudable national undertakings which had been patronised by Frederick, the British fisheries were not the least considerable; on his demise, the president and council of the Free British Fishery waited upon prince George, then prince of Wales, to solicit the honour of nominating him their governor. The answer which his royal highness gave to the deputation, proved that he was worthy to supply the place which had been filled by his illustrious father.

The speech addressed to his royal highness was as follows :

May it please your Royal Highness,

The president, vice-president, council and society of the Free British Fishery, encouraged by his majesty's royal approbation, humbly approach your royal highness, to entreat your favourable acceptance of being their governor, an honour condescended to by your illustrious and much-lamented father, whose princely virtues were eminently conspicuous, by his constant attention to, and his generous concern for, the welfare of this kingdom, and the prosperity of its commerce.—As we considered the success of this national undertaking, from which the most lasting advantages are expected, to have depended

greatly upon his gracious protection, we cannot but hope for the same benefits from the influence of your royal highness, the inheritor of all his virtues; and therefore, Sir, we beseech you to take this fishery under your protection, which will add new vigour to our endeavours, and prove the most auspicious omen of its success.

To which his royal highness returned the following most gracious answer :

Gentlemen,

I return you my thanks for this mark of your duty to the king, and of your regard for me. You may be assured, I shall always be glad to contribute every thing in my power to the success of your laudable attempt for extending the commerce of his majesty's subjects.

Mr. Serjeant Belfield, recorder of Exeter, having obtained the royal assent, presented his royal highness with the patent of the office of high steward of the city of Exeter, in the room of his deceased father, and with the freedom of the said city, in a gold box of curious workmanship, which his royal highness accepted in a gracious and obliging manner.

The prince of Wales, educated in a state of seclusion, restrained from general intercourse with the world, and surrounded by many whom he disliked, attained that age which, according to act of parliament, enabled him to assume the reins of government on the demise of the king, and thus the regency bill which had so particularly excited the attention of the country, became a dead letter, and they who had erected upon it their hopes of aggrandizement, shrunk back into their native nothingness. The household of his royal highness was now established on the model of his late father's, and the following noblemen and gentlemen were appointed officers to it :

Earl of Bute,—*groom of the stool.*

Earl of Huntingdon,—*master of the horse.*

Earl of Sussex, lord Down, lord Robert Bertie—*old lords of the bedchamber.*

Earl of Euston, earl of Pembroke, lord Digby,—*new lords of the bedchamber.*

Messrs. Schutz and Peachy,—*old grooms of the bed-chamber.*

Hon. S. Masham, Hon. G. Monson, and Charles Ingram, and Edward Nugent, Esqrs.,—*old grooms.*

Lord Bathurst,—*treasurer.*

Honourable James Brudenel,—*privy purse.*

Simon Fanshaw,—*comptroller of the household.*

Thomas Farrant, Esq.,—*appointed deputy auditor, in auditor Aislaby's office.*

Mr. Davis,—*chief clerk in the navy office.*

The prince of Wales as he advanced in life gave manifest proofs that his character was not one of gloominess or reserve. Though addicted to no mean and degrading vice, the sociability of his disposition now and then displayed itself; but which was instantly checked by the austerity of those, who considered the enjoyment of social intercourse as incompatible with the dignity of his station as heir apparent to the crown of the first kingdom of the world; they wished to encase him in all the pomp and ceremony of royalty, and to select his companions from that class which was well calculated to instil into his mind the most correct ideas of aristocratical dignity and the high importance of hereditary rank; but which would leave him ignorant of the intricate machinery of that government over which he was destined one day to preside, and utterly devoid of that knowledge of the world which was to qualify him to rule with credit to himself, and happiness to the community. Had not the mind and dispositions of George III. been formed in a mould peculiar to itself, what detriment might not the country have sustained by the defective mode of education which was adopted for him? He was taught the theory of human life, and his view of man was rather taken in the abstract, than from society in general. He was now arrived at that stage of life, when

the passions are ardent; and, who will deny that a prince, standing as he did in the most elevated situation of society, around which so many temptations crowd themselves, and the enjoyment of which is not attended with difficulty, does not stand in need of a faithful monitor. At this interesting and dangerous period, the parent generally softens the severe tone of authority into the kind and expressive expostulation of the friend, but the prince of Wales was bereft of that parent; and, we do not find, that during his minority any individual who had been constantly about his person, had so far gained his unlimited confidence, as to authorize him to assume the character of the candid and disinterested friend. His mother, it is true, possessed great influence over him, but there are certain circumstances in life, in which a mother seldom undertakes to give her advice; and where given, it occurs still less seldom that it is ever followed. The rising passions of the human breast, if injudiciously or severely restrained, generally display themselves in private with greater force; and we trust this remark will be remembered when we enter upon one of the most interesting epochs of this history.

The experience which the prince of Wales had hitherto acquired of the proceedings of our courts of justice was very limited; a particular circumstance, however, occurred at this period, which enabled him to be present at one of the most important trials which, with the exception of that of Warren Hastings, excited the greatest interest throughout the country. This was the trial of earl Ferrers for the murder of Mr. Johnson, and the following is the description of the magnificent tribunal which was erected in Westminster Hall, for the accommodation of the royal family:

At the upper end was placed a chair of state

for his majesty, under a canopy of crimson velvet; before it, on a rich Turkey carpet, one step beneath the throne, was a crimson velvet chair for his grace the lord high steward, lord Henley of the Grange, lord keeper of the great seal. On the right side of the throne was erected a tent, enclosed with curtains of crimson silk for the reception of the royal family, and another on the left side for the great officers of the crown. In front of the throne were woolpacks covered with crimson cloth, and on either hand crimson seats for the lords spiritual and temporal, apparelled in their robes of state. At the farther end of the court of justice, exactly opposite to the chair of state, was the bar, at which was placed the prisoner Laurence Earl Ferrers, with the axe before him reversed. On his right hand, sat his majesty's attorney and solicitor-general, the prosecutors for the crown; on his left, the counsel for the prisoner.

This high court of judicature was so commodiously disposed as chiefly to occupy the middle part of that fine and spacious edifice; the seats, which were erected gradually rising on either side, and in front of the lord high steward, to the extent of almost the whole hall, were occupied by the gentlemen of the honourable House of Commons, and a most splendid assembly of ladies and persons of distinction. The prince of Wales attended the trial, and it so-impressed him with such exalted sentiments

of a British court of judicature, that he was heard to exclaim, that he had real reason to be proud of being an Englishman.

George II. was at this time the oldest monarch on any of the thrones of Europe*, and the early prospect of his decease rendered the prince of Wales an object of peculiar interest. His attachments, his predilections, his political bias, were all watched with a most scrutinizing eye; and many, who, but a few years previously, revolted at the idea of paying their court to him, were now the most obsequious in their attention, and the most extravagant in their encomiums.

On attaining the 21st year of his age, the event was celebrated throughout the country in the most joyous manner. He became completely emancipated from the control of his governor, and a new era appeared to dawn upon him.

The following address was presented to his royal highness on his birth-day, by the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London.

May it please your royal highness,

Your royal highness having happily attained your age of twenty-one years, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common council assembled, humbly beg leave to compliment your royal highness upon an event so pleasing to the king, and so very interesting to his majesty's faithful subjects.

* The following is an account of the respective ages of all the crowned heads in Europe at this time:—

King of Great Britain yrs. 74	King of Denmark yrs. 35	Prince of Prussia yrs. 35
Prussia 46	Sweden 48	Dauphin 28
France 48	Empress of Russia 47	Eldest Infante of Portugal 23
Spain 44	Emperor of the Romans 49	Duke of Savoy 31
Naples and Sicily (heir to Spain) 42	Empress Queen of Hungary.... 41	Prince Royal of Denmark 9
Portugal 43	The Pope 83	Sweden 12
Poland (Elector of Saxony) 61	The Grand Signior 42	Grand Duke of Russia..... 30
Sardinia 57		Joseph, Archduke of Austria... 17

Ages of the Heirs apparent.

Prince of Wales 19

But permit us, sir, at the same time, without offending the modesty which so eminently distinguishes and adorns your character, to express the yet greater pleasure we enjoy in beholding your royal highness possessed of every virtue and accomplishment which we had reason to pre-
sage from the excellence of your genius, and the goodness of your disposition.

When we consider your royal highness's exemplary piety, your dutiful deportment towards the king, your respectful affection for your august mother, your early knowledge of the constitution and true interests of these kingdoms, and your solicitude for the happiness and prosperity of the people, we form the most agreeable prospects, and reflect with gratitude upon the wisdom and attention that have been employed to cultivate these noble sentiments in your princely breast.

May they more and more endear your royal highness to his majesty, and hereafter be exerted in a higher sphere, in preserving the religious and civil rights, happily intrusted to the protection of his majesty's illustrious house.

To which his royal highness was pleased to return the following answer.

My lord and gentlemen,

I return you my hearty thanks for this mark of your duty to the king, and attention to me. You may always depend upon my warmest wishes for the prosperity of this great city, and for whatever can in the least promote the trade and manufactures of my native country.

The lord mayor, aldermen, &c., were introduced into the presence of his royal highness, by the right hon. lord Robert Bertie, and the address was delivered by sir William Moreton, the recorder.

It would not only be tedious, but uninteresting to copy or even to enumerate the various odes, congratulatory poems, sonnets, epigrams, &c., which filled the columns of the daily papers on the occasion of the prince of Wales coming of age; and we shall therefore content ourselves with simply giving the celebrated lines which were written and spoken by Mr. Garrick.

With heart and head, light as the nimble air,
From full libations to Britannia's heir,
Your Garrick comes. Oh! for a Muse of fire!
Whose glowing verse might answer my desire;
And paint the joy due to this glorious day,
Which marks our prince mature for future sway;
Mature in years, in virtue ripe before,
Science has taught the royal youth her lore;
Pointed the path to which his heart inclin'd,
And fix'd the generous purpose of his mind:
Avow'd his purpose, and confess'd his aim,
On freedom's base to build a monarch's fame;
To stand the regal guardian of the laws,
And make the public good the prince's cause.

This joyful day Britannia's foes deplore,
Your shouts of triumph shake the Gallic shore.
From liberty our island empire rose,
To liberty her might Britannia owes.
This is the proud palladium of the state,
The monarch's grandeur and the people's fate.
In vain shall rival potentates combine,
And fickle Austria with proud Bourbon join;
Britain, the bulwark of the world shall stand,
Whilst Freedom's strength sustains a sceptre'd hand.

Our aged king, whose length of days, renown
And the warm love of grateful Britons crown;
Long with his people mourn'd the fatal blow,
That laid his son, the hope of nations, low;
Now, thro' the cares that age and greatness know,
A smile paternal smooths the monarch's brow:
From his own stock he sees the branch arise,
A native plant to bloom in Britain's skies.

Long may the parent tree his arms extend,
And long with shelt'ring shade his race defend;
Long may his subjects bless the monarch's sway,
And oft return the prince's natal day!

The circumstance of his royal highness coming of age appeared at this time to make a deep impression upon the nation; it exhibited a decided proof, if any proof were wanting, of the attachment of the people of Britain to the Brunswick family, and with what anxiety they regarded every event by which a lineal succession to the throne was confirmed.

The hereditary succession to the crown may indeed be considered as the great palladium of

British liberty. From Magna Charta, to that famous statute called the Declaration of Rights, it has been the uniform policy of our Constitution, to claim and assert our liberties, as an entailed inheritance derived to us from our forefathers, and to be transmitted to our posterity as an estate especially belonging to the people of this kingdom, without any reference whatever to any other more general or prior right. By these means our constitution preserves an unity in so great a diversity of its parts. We have an inheritable crown, an inheritable peerage, and a house of commons and a people inheriting privileges, franchises, and liberties from a long line of ancestors.

This policy appears to be the result of profound reflection, or rather the happy effect of following nature, which is wisdom without reflection, and above it. A spirit of innovation is generally the result of a selfish temper, and confined views. People who never look back wards to their ancestors will not look forward to posterity. Besides it is well known to the people of England; that the idea of inheritance furnishes a sure principle of conservation, and a sure principle of transmission, without at all excluding a principle of improvement. It leaves acquisition free, but it secures what it acquires. Whatever advantages are obtained, by a state proceeding on these measures, are locked fast in a sort of family settlement, grasped as in a kind of mortmain for ever. By a constitutional policy working after the pattern of nature, we receive, we hold, we transmit our government and our privileges, in the same manner in which we enjoy and transmit our property and our lives. The institutions of policy, the goods of fortune, the gifts of Providence, are handed down to us, and from us in the same course and order. Our political system is placed in a just correspondence and symmetry with the

order of the world, and with the mode of existence decreed to a permanent body composed of transitory parts, wherein, by the disposition of a stupendous wisdom moulding together the great mysterious incorporation of the human race, the whole at one time is never old, or middle-aged, or young, but in a condition of unchangeable constancy, moving on through the varied tenor of perpetual decay, fall, renovation, and progression.. Thus, by preserving the method of nature in the conduct of the state, in what we improve we are never wholly new, and in what we retain we are never wholly obsolete; by adhering in this manner and on those principles to our forefathers, we are guided, not by the superstition of antiquaries, but by the spirit of philosophical analogy. In this choice of inheritance, we have given to our frame of polity the image of a relation in blood; binding up the constitution of our country with our dearest domestic ties; adopting our fundamental laws into the bosom of our family affections; keeping inseparable, and cherishing with the warmth of all their combined and mutually reflected charities, our state, our hearths, our sepulchres, and our altars.

Through the same plan of a conformity to nature in our artificial institutions, and by calling in the aid of her unerring and powerful instincts, to fortify the fallible and feeble contrivances of our reason, we have derived several other, and these no small, benefits from considering our liberties in the light of an inheritance. Always acting as in the presence of canonized forefathers, the spirit of freedom, leading in itself to misrule and excess, is tempered with an awful gravity. This idea of a honorable descent inspires us with a sense of habitual native dignity, which prevents that upstart insolence almost inevitably adhering to and disgracing those who are the first acquirers of any dis-

tion. By these means our liberty becomes a noble freedom. It carries an imposing and majestic aspect. It has a noble pedigree and illustrious ancestors. It has its bearings and ensigns armorial. It has its gallery of portraits; its monumental inscriptions; its records, evidences, and titles. We procure reverence to our civil institutions, on the principle upon which nature teaches us to revere individuals on account of their age, and on account of those from whom they are descended. All your sophisters cannot produce any thing better adapted to preserve a rational and manly freedom, than the course we have pursued, who have chosen our nature rather than our speculations, our breasts rather than our inventions, for the great conservatories and magazines of our rights and privileges.

Notwithstanding the many faults, private and public, which are imputed to George II., it must be allowed that few monarchs ever manifested a more anxious desire to provide for the administration of government against all those hazardous contingencies which generally enervate and oppress a nation during a minority.

The provisions which were made by the legislature for effecting the salutary ends proposed by his majesty, in case of a demise before his royal successor should arrive at the age of maturity, promised at that time the greatest security to our constitution. If any fears existed, the joyous event of the prince of Wales attaining his twenty-first year, dissipated them completely; and certainly if any thing could add to the heartfelt satisfaction which his majesty enjoyed on living to witness the majority of his grandson, it was the numerous addresses which were presented to him upon the occasion, all breathing the same ardent spirit to promote the interests of his crown and family. It was regarded as a special instance of divine protec-

tion, in not allowing these kingdoms to be threatened with that woe which Solomon writes hangs over the land, *whose king is a child*.

We have already noticed in a cursory manner, the very defective system of education which was adopted with our late monarch; but some sources of particular information on that interesting subject having presented themselves, and the authenticity of the facts being placed beyond all doubt, we should consider ourselves as guilty of a very gross dereliction of duty, were we not to embody them in this history.

It was ascertained in the year 1753 by the bishop of Norwich, that some very improper books had been put into the hands of the prince of Wales, and lord Ravensworth brought the serious charge against Stone and Murray of their being Jacobites. A committee of the privy council was directed to inquire into it, and it sat several times upon the subject, considering it to be one of the most vital interest to the state. The two confidants had, however, the address to acquit themselves, although Mr. Fawcett, the recorder of Newcastle, swore to their having drank the Pretender's health.

On the 22d of March 1753, the duke of Bedford made the following motion in the house of lords: "That an humble address be presented to his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to give orders, that there be laid before this house, the several examinations of the lord Ravensworth, the dean of Durham, Mr. Fawcett, the lord bishop of St. Asaph, the lord bishop of Gloucester, the honourable Mr. Murray, his majesty's solicitor-general, Andrew Stone, Esq., and such other examinations upon oath, as have been taken before the lords appointed by his majesty to inquire into informations of a very material nature, relating to a person in the service of their royal highnesses, the prince of Wales and prince Edward, and

the other persons mentioned in the course of the said examination, likewise all letters and papers relative thereto, and the report made by their lordships to his majesty thereupon." The duke of Newcastle, however, and the rest of the ministry were against the motion, and therefore it was negatived. Lord Harcourt said in the debate, that he found he had no authority over the prince's education, nor could he be of any service unless the sub-governor and others (Scott and Cressett) were dismissed, all of whom he had strong reason to believe were jacobites, and therefore he had resigned. The Pelhams thought they had gained their point in the protection of Stone and Murray, and in appointing lord Waldegrave and the primate to succeed the resigners, while the fact was, they were deceived and betrayed by their own people. By this secret manœuvre the influence and ascendancy of lord Bute were completely established.

At that time a most remarkable paper was circulated by the Bedford party, entitled, *A Memorial of several Noblemen and Gentlemen of the first Rank and Fortune*. It excited an extraordinary degree of interest at Leicester-house, and was as follows :

The memorialists represent,

" That the education of the prince of Wales is of the utmost importance to the whole nation; that it ought always to be intrusted to noblemen of the most unblemished honour, and to prelates of the most distinguished

virtue, of the most accomplished learning, and of the most unsuspected principles, with regard to government both in the church and state; that the misfortune which the nation formerly suffered, or escaped, under king Charles I., king Charles II., and king James II., were owing to the bad education of those princes, who were early initiated in maxims of arbitrary power; that, for a faction to engross the education of the prince of Wales to themselves, excluding men of probity and learning, is unwarrantable, dangerous and illegal; that, to place men about the prince of Wales, whose principles are suspected, and whose belief, in the mysteries of our faith, is doubtful, has the most mischievous tendency, and ought justly to alarm the friends of their country, and of the Protestant succession. That, for the ministers to support low men, who were originally improper for the high trust to which they were advanced, after complaints made of dark, suspicious, and unwarrantable methods made use of by such men in their plan of education, and to protect and countenance such men in their insolent and unheard-of behaviour to their superiors, is a foundation for suspecting the worst designs in such ministers; that it being notorious that books* inculcating the worst maxims of government, and defending the most avowed tyrannies, have been put into the hands of the prince of Wales, it cannot but affect the memorialists with the most melancholy apprehensions, when they find that the men, who had the honesty and the resolution to complain of such astonishing methods of instruction, are driven away from court†, and the men who have dared to teach such doctrines, are continued in trust and favour. That the security of this government being built on whig principles is alone supported by whig zeal. That the establishment of the present royal family being settled on the timely overthrow of queen Anne's last ministry, it

* These books were Father Orlean's *Revolutions of the House of Stuart*; Ramsay's *Travels of Cyrus*; Sir Robert Filmer's *Patriarch*; and others inculcating the same principles.

† Alluding to the resignations of lord Harcourt and Dr. Hayter, who were succeeded by lord Waldegrave and Dr. Stone. The following lines were written under Dr. Hayter's portrait, published at this time :

Not gentler virtues glow'd in Cambray's breast;
Not more his young Telemachus was bless'd,
Till envy, faction, and ambitious rage,
Drove from a guilty court the pious sage;
Back to his flock with transport he withdrew,
And but one sigh,—an honest one, he knew.

O guard my royal pupil, Heaven! he said,
Let not his youth be like my age betray'd;
I would have form'd his footsteps in thy way,
But vice prevails, and impious men bear away

cannot but alarm all true whigs, to hear of schoolmasters of very contrary principles being thought of for preceptors, and to see none but the friends and the pupils of the late lord Bolingbroke intrusted with the education of a prince, whose family, that lord endeavoured by his measures to exclude, and by his writings to expel from the throne of these kingdoms; that there being great reason to believe that a noble lord has accused one of the preceptors of jacobitism, it is astonishing that no notice has been taken of a complaint of so high a nature; on the contrary, the accused person continues in the same trust, without any inquiry into the grounds of the charge, or any step taken by the accused to purge himself of a crime of so black a dye. That no satisfaction being given to the governor and preceptor, one of whom, though a nobleman of the most unblemished honour, and the other a prelate of the most unbiassed virtue, who have both been treated in the grossest terms of abuse by a menial servant of the family, it is derogatory to his majesty's authority, under which they acted; is an affront to the peerage, and an outrage to the dignity of the church. That whoever advised the refusal of an audience to the bishop of Norwich, who was so justly alarmed at the wrong methods which he saw taken in the education of the prince of Wales, is an enemy to this country, and can only mean, at least, to govern by a faction, or is himself influenced by a more dangerous faction, which intends to overthrow the government, and restore that of the exiled and arbitrary house of Stuart. That to have a Scotchman (Murray) of a most disaffected family, and allied in the nearest manner to the pretender's first minister, consulted in the education of the prince of Wales, and intrusted with the most important secrets of government, must tend to alarm and disgust the friends of the present royal family, and to encourage the hopes and attempts of the jacobites.

Lastly, the memorialists cannot help remarking that the three or four low, dark suspected persons, are the only men whose station is fixed and permanent; but that all the great offices and officers are so constantly varied and shuffled about to the disgrace of this country, that the best affected persons apprehend, that there is a settled design of these low and suspected people to infuse such jealousies, caprices, and fickleness, into the two ministers whose confidence they engross, as may render this government ridiculous and contemptible, and facili-

tate the revolution, which the memorialists think they have but too much reason to fear, is meditating.

GOD PRESERVE THE KING.

The Bedford party, however, gained little by this memorial; the strong tide of intrigue was carrying every thing before it, and in regard to the obnoxious books, which had excited so great an alarm in the staunch partizans of the whig principles, it does not appear whether the perusal of them was immediately protracted, but it is certain, that, whatever poison they might contain, its virulence was lost upon the illustrious object for whom it was intended; for in no after period of his life did he allow the contamination to appear.

In a weekly paper published at this time, called *The Protestor*, and which appears to be the paper alluded to by Doddington in his diary, pages 235 and 236, in the 15th number, September 8, 1753, after making strong mention of Stone, are these remarkable words, "Whatever may be the misgivings and repinings of those who expected a kingdom of their own, and who now see themselves for ever excluded, *those* who have the forming of the *youth* have reason to promise themselves the like ascendancy over the *man*."

This business being settled, the affairs of Leicester-house went on in their usual routine. Stone, Murray, and lord Bute, were in perfect union, not indeed ostensibly, but confidentially; and, in a very little time, that is, before the war broke out, lord Bath paid his court to lord Bute, and was admitted of his cabinet. From this time may be dated that unhappy and dangerous idea which lord Bute had imbibed, of forming a *double* cabinet. He imbibed that idea from lord Bath, who told him, that *official* men ought never to be trusted with information of any measure, until it was given them to execute. "They were the *servants*," he said,

"of the executive power, not the power itself." This extraordinary doctrine would be fully developed, if certain letters at Fonthill were to be published, as alderman Beckford was one of those who at this time paid their *devoirs* at Leicester-house.

It will be not less interesting than entertaining, to trace the various and deep manœuvres which were at this time employed, both by the ministry and the opposition, *to get possession of the prince*, which became at last the cant expression of the party. Public affairs at this time wore a most frowning aspect; but there was another of a private, but not less alarming nature to the ministry. This was the party at Leicester-house. The prince's levees were crowded, Mr. Pitt, lord Temple, and the Grenville's, and many others were constantly there; and, this circumstance, not in the least favourable to the views of the ministry, gave great concern to the lord chancellor (Hardwicke,) and the duke of Newcastle. Accordingly they advised the king to send a messenger to his royal highness, offering him a suite of apartments at St. James's and Kensington palaces. Had this step been taken in the year 1752, it might have been productive of the happiest emancipation. There would have been wisdom in the measure at that time, and it must have succeeded, but in 1756 it was too late; the blossom was off, and the fruit was set. Upon this message, however, Leicester-house was thrown into the deepest consternation, for a double motive was discovered in it, one of which, however, it was intended to keep as secret as possible. If Pandora's box be supposed to contain all the evils incidental to human life, Leicester-house may in the strictest sense of propriety be denominated at this time, the Pandora's box of political intrigues,

and of party faction. The offer of the apartments was not accepted by the prince of Wales, on which something very like a threat was used; but lord Temple and Mr. Pitt *stood in the gap*, and *SAVED LEICESTER-HOUSE**.

A discovery was now made which set the whole political machine in motion, and increased if possible the rancour of the contending parties. The two princesses of Brunswick whom the king had invited to Hanover, were at this time in England, and the motive of their visit was not at first apparent, but by degrees the cloven foot discovered itself; and it was ultimately found, that it was the intention of the king, in direct opposition to the party at Leicester-house, to propose one of the princesses of Brunswick in marriage for his grandson. This bold and unexpected manœuvre appeared to paralyze the party at Leicester-house, and the following is an authentic copy of a conversation which took place between the princess of Wales, and a celebrated politician on this interesting subject:

"She (the princess of Wales) told me that the king had sent to invite the two princesses of Brunswick; they came, but their mother, the king of Prussia's sister, who was not invited, came with them; we talked of the match. 'Surely,' her royal highness said, 'he would not marry her son without acquainting her with it, so much as by letter.' I said, certainly not, as he had always behaved very politely to her. 'It may be so,' her royal highness replied, 'but how can this be reconciled?' In this manner, I answered; nothing will be settled at Hanover, but when the king comes back, he may say in conversation, and commending the prince's figure, that he wishes to see him settled before he dies, and that he has seen such and such princesses; and, though

* These are the concluding words of one of lord Temple's letters, in which the particulars of this affair are stated.

he would settle nothing without her participation, yet he could wish to see the prince settled before his death; and therefore if she had no objection, he should think one of those princesses a very suitable party. Her royal highness paused for a time, and then said, 'No, he was not that sort of man'; but if the king should settle the match without acquainting her with it, she should let him know how ill she took it; and, if he did it in the manner I mentioned, she should not fail to tell him fairly and plainly, that it was full early. She was determined to behave so whenever the king spoke to her about it."

Notwithstanding the secluded mode of life which the dowager princess of Wales adopted, and the warm and zealous interest which she took in the commercial interests of the country, she rendered herself unpopular by her steadfast attachment to the political principles of Bute, nor were the means disguised which she pursued to support him in his projects. His lordship throughout the whole of his career played a deep and cunning game, and he saw the period rapidly advancing, when the seeds which he had so industriously sown were to yield him tenfold profit. He was well acquainted with the ardent desire so often expressed by George II., that his grandson the prince of Wales should have a bride selected for him from some of the reigning families of Germany, and particularly from some branch of the house of Brunswick. This plan, however, did not by any means chime in with the views which the dowager princess of Wales entertained for her son, and in which she was secretly supported by lord Bute, who saw in their accomplishment another stepping-stone to his own aggrandizement. The princess of Wales no sooner discovered the particular family from which it was the wish of

his majesty that a bride should be selected for her son, than in conjunction with lord Bute, every secret art was employed by his mother to instil into the mind of the prince of Wales a rooted dislike to his intended bride; depreciating all her personal attractions, and representing her as bereft of every amiable quality which could render the married state happy. On the other hand, the charms, the mental qualifications, the superior endowments, and the fascinating manners of a princess of the house of Saxe-Gotha were the constant theme of panegyric, the diamond could not surpass her eye in brilliancy, nor the snow the whiteness of her skin. The heart of the prince of Wales was at this time by no means callous to the power of feminine beauty, and in fancy he became so highly enamoured with the German Venus, that a formal demand was made of her picture, which in royal marriages, is generally the prelude to the possession of the original. By some means this circumstance transpired beyond the sphere in which it was intended to remain a secret; and, on its being reported to George II., he expressed his disapprobation of it in the most indignant terms, and formally entered his protest against the marriage, expressing himself in terms of asperity, *that he knew enough of that family already*. The public espoused the cause of the princess of Wales, but the walls of the metropolis were placarded by her enemies, with the most scurrilous epithets against her royal highness, and the whole house of Saxe-Gotha was vilified in the most offensive manner. These violent and most reprehensible measures were, however, by no means attended with those consequences which the partizans of his majesty expected. It is true, they put a stop to all further negotiation for the union of the prince of Wales with the princess of Saxe-Gotha, but at the same time,

he resented the indignity which had been offered to his mother so warmly, that he would not listen to any proposal for his marriage with any other princess. In vain his majesty importuned him; in vain the most serious and plausible representations were made to him of the necessity of his marriage, as an act of state policy; in vain were all the arguments adduced which had been so satisfactorily employed in the discussion of the regency bill, concerning the danger which impends over the country, when the monarch or the heir-apparent to the throne marries at a late period of his life, thereby giving rise to the probability of a long minority: in vain the character of the patriot prince was exposed to him, who ought to sacrifice his private feelings to the welfare of the state. To all these powerful and cogent reasons he granted a willing and respectful ear, and an hour's private conversation with his mother, effaced every impression which they had made. But strong and powerful as was the influence which the dowager princess of Wales not only possessed but exercised over the inclinations and amiable dispositions of her son; yet the repugnance and reluctance which he manifested towards his establishment in life, found ample food for their nourishment in another and more mighty cause. The prince, though surrounded with all the emblems of royalty, and invested with sovereign authority, was nevertheless but a man; subject to all the frailties of his nature, impelled by the powerful tide of passion, exposed to temptations of the most dangerous and irresistible kind, and surrounded by sycophants, who administered to the gratification of every unruly propensity. Who is there that, with even this limited knowledge of human nature, will attach perfection to a prince? The biographer, in the description of the virtues

which may so eminently adorn him, and which cast a lustre upon the exalted station which he fills, must not, without offending the dignity of truth, avert his view from those blemishes which are as inseparable from his nature, as heat from the orb of heaven. The prince, abstractedly considered, may be perfect in the discharge of those functions which are attached to his station; but as a human being, mixing in the great herd of society, and born a subject to all his weaknesses, to invest him with perfection were a solecism, and deserving of the ridicule and reproach not only of the present generation, but of posterity. Human nature must not, like the figures of the Chinese, be drawn without a shade; and, he who draws a faultless being, draws that which the world never saw, and stands convicted a libeller of his race.

The prince of Wales was now of that age when the passions of the human breast are in their fullest flow; borne along by the buoyant spirit of youth, prudence in vain interposes its salutary admonitions, the cold-blooded counsels of age are disregarded, and well for him who possesses sufficient self-command, to overcome the temptations which at every step beset him. Surrounded, caressed, and flattered as he was by the fascinating beauties of the British court, and with the knowledge that there was many a pearl in the shell which waited but for him to gather, can it excite our wonder that although the star of royalty glittered at his breast, it yet was vulnerable? His affections became enchained, he looked no more to Saxe-Gotha nor to Brunswick for an object on which to lavish his love; he found one in the secret recesses of Hampton, whither he often repaired, concealed by the protecting shades of night; and there he experienced, what seldom falls to the lot of princes, the bliss of the purest love. The

object of his affections became a mother, and strengthened the bond between them. Every act therefore which had a reference to his marriage, was dreaded by him; and being one day in company with the late duke of Chandos, who appears to have been honoured with his confidence, he expressed himself in the following terms: "Ah! Chandos, you are a happy man, you are at liberty to live with the woman of your choice; whilst I, the future king of a great nation, shall perhaps at some not very distant period, be obliged to take to my arms a woman, whom I have never seen before, and whom perhaps I may never love; whose dispositions and manners may be wholly different to mine, and whose customs and habits may not be agreeable to a free people: yet, whenever that period arrives, I pray God I may be enabled to do my duty, though I never can forget that I am a father."

The period of the establishment of the prince of Wales's household has been already noticed; but in order to shew the distracted state of the councils of the nation at that time, and the unhappy effects of which displayed themselves so conspicuously on the accession of George III. to the throne, it will be necessary to enter into a minute *exposé* of the events which so particularly distinguish that momentous era of the English history.

In the year 1754, the flame of war had been kindled in North America, and it was preparing to burst out in Europe. Great Britain was every day more closely rivetted to the continent by fresh engagements, while her own proper affairs were totally neglected. Her fleet

was rotting in ordinary; her army, except that part of it which was under the immediate eye of the duke of Cumberland, relaxed in discipline. Her ministers were timid by disunion, and their measures were enervated by ignorance. However unpleasing the fact may be to relate, it is a fact, which the best-informed persons will not contradict, that the principal, if not the only attention of all descriptions of men, were employed at this time in intriguing and negotiating for places; but in this general assertion, it is not to be understood, that all parties were influenced by the same motives. There is no doubt that some persons were actuated by the passion of self-interest; but it is equally true, that there were many who were governed by a sincere desire to serve the country, and that places were no further their object than as they gave them power to do good.

On the 15th of September, 1755, the king returned from Hanover*, with a subsidiary treaty he had concluded with Hesse for 12,000 men for the defence of Hanover or Great Britain. Another treaty with Prussia, which he had negotiated abroad for 40,000 men for the defence of Hanover, in case that electorate should be invaded, was *finished* and signed at Kensington, on the 30th of the same month. This circumstance gave rise to one of the most constitutional acts for which Mr. Pitt has rendered himself so celebrated in the annals of his country, and which naturally drew down upon him the resentment of the king.

In the month of October a draft from Petersburg, was presented to the British Exchequer

* On the arrival of his majesty at Harwich from the continent, it was so dark by the time he reached Copeluck, that it was necessary lights should be procured. In this part of the country black-puddings are called *links*; the harbinger or officer inquired of the landlady if she had flambeaux, or could procure any? Being answered in the negative, he asked her if she had any links? "Aye, that I have," said she, "and some as good as his majesty, God bless him, ever ate in all his life."

for 100,000*l.*, in consequence of the Russian treaty. Mr. Legge consulted Mr. Pitt. They united in refusing payment until the treaty had been approved by parliament.

During the residence of the king at Hanover, the duke of Newcastle received information of the negotiations carrying on there; and being sensible of the disapprobation with which the treaties with Hesse and Russia would be received in England, he endeavoured, by negotiations at home, to strengthen his ministerial power. Of all his opponents, he reckoned Mr. Pitt the most formidable; to him, therefore, he first applied. He sent the Hon. Charles Yorke to him, to *sound him*, as he called it. When Mr. Yorke had opened his business, and began to make a tender of the duke's sincere friendship for Mr. Pitt, his grace's unlimited confidence in— Mr. Pitt stopped him short, and said, "that as to friendship and confidence, there were none between them; and if there ever had been any, they were now entirely destroyed; that he (Mr. Pitt) laboured under the king's displeasure, which the duke of Newcastle ought to have removed; the duke perfectly knew that the royal displeasure arose from misrepresentation, and until that proscription was taken off, he would enter into no conversation whatever, either with his grace or with any body from him.

Mr. Fox having been informed of this difference between the duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pitt, made a proposal to join Mr. Pitt against the duke of Newcastle. Mr. Pitt rejected the proposal. It is easy to see Mr. Pitt's motive for this rejection. Mr. Fox was the favourite of the duke of Cumberland, and his royal highness had differed with the duke of Newcastle concerning the preparations for war, in which he thought the minister negligent and backward, and he had in contemplation the appointment

of a new ministry; if Mr. Pitt had accepted Mr. Fox's proposal, he must have taken a subordinate situation, which he would never think of under Mr. Fox.

The prince of Wales's party at Leicester-house was now increasing, and Mr. Pitt was supposed to belong to them; but it was not true; he was their friend, but not their coadjutor.

Parties were in this state when parliament met on the 13th of November, 1755. The treaties with Russia and Hesse were mentioned in the king's speech, and an insinuation of an engagement to approve of them was introduced in the address of each house.

Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge condemned them in the strongest terms. The former said in parliament, that they were advised, framed, and executed, not with a view to the defence of Great Britain, in case she should be invaded by France; nor with a view to protect the allies of Great Britain, if they should be attacked by France; but purely and entirely for the preservation of Hanover against the attempts of France and her confederates, which he believed to be so entirely the object of the treaties, that he was convinced they would not have been made, had not that electorate belonged to the sovereign of the island.

The address, however, was agreed to; but on the following day the duke's negotiations for a new ministry being finished, and his arrangements ready, Sir Thomas Robinson resigned, upon a pension for three lives and the wardrobe; Mr. Fox was on the same day appointed Secretary of State in his room.

On the 30th of November, 1755, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge were dismissed from their offices, as were also Messrs. George and James Grenville.

It is proper in this place to remark, not only

because the circumstance is peculiar, and exhibiting a prominent feature in Mr. Pitt's character, but as it is an example worthy the imitation of all honest statesmen, that when Mr. Pitt was *turned out**, the balances belonging to his office were lodged in the bank. The very persons who encouraged the many attempts which were made to throw a shade upon his moral character, were the discoverers of this fact, to their utter mortification.

Sir. George Lyttelton, afterwards Lord Lyttelton†, was made Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Barrington Secretary of War, Lord Darlington and Lord Dupplin joint Paymaster, Mr. Doddington‡ Treasurer of the Navy.

This new administration was called the duke's ministry, because his royal highness had recommended the principal persons who com-

posed it. Notwithstanding the high quarter from which the recommendation came, yet there never was an administration more unpopular and odious.

The first measure was to vote the 100,000*l.* for Russia, which Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge had refused to pay, also 54,000*l.* to the Landgraf of Hesse.

In the months of January and February, 1756, France began to march large bodies of her troops towards the sea-coast, particularly into Picardy and to Dunkirk, and threatened to invade Great Britain. These preparations overwhelmed the timid cabinet with alarm and despair. The ministry thought it was "wisest and best" to defend Great Britain with an army. Accordingly, in the month of March, the king sent a message to parliament, ac-

* It must be confessed that this is a gross vulgarism, but it is an expression which belongs peculiarly to the political phraseology of this period of our history. Besides a distinction was made in those days between a *dismissal* and a *turn out* from office. The former was the more courteous method, and was generally attended with a pension or a peerage; the latter took place abruptly, and was always accompanied with the royal displeasure.

† To this nobleman is attributed the expression of *being in the wrong box*. His lordship always declared to his friends how much happier he should have been, had he been brought up to some profession or business; so difficult did he find it to settle his attention to something to which he was not obliged to settle it. Dr. Johnson, in his Life of him, has suppressed an anecdote which would have made his memory ridiculous. He was a man rather melancholy in his disposition, and used to declare to his friends, that when he went to Vauxhall, he always supposed pleasure to be in the *next box* to his, at least, that he himself was so unhappily situated as always to be in the *wrong box* for it.

‡ The following anecdote will throw some light upon the character of this consummate courtier. Being one day in the train of the princess of Wales, he observed a pamphlet lying in one of the ante-chambers, which upon perusal he found reflected very severely on many of the characters and intrigues of her court. The princess saw him reading it, and asked him what he thought of it. He replied, "that it was a very artful, libellous performance, and might occasion some prejudices against her royal highness's servants, if it were not immediately answered; and if your royal highness," he continued, "will permit me to take it home, I believe I could answer it myself." The princess returned him thanks for this kindness, and he took the book with him. However, not having time, or perhaps inclination, to be as good as his promise, he sent for Dr. Shebbeare, with whom he had some intimacy, and whom he knew to be an author by profession; and told him, if he had leisure to sit down and answer that pamphlet, he would be obliged to him, and he should be well paid for it into the bargain. Shebbeare, running his eye rather carelessly over the book, said it should be done. "Aye, but," says Doddington, "I wish to have it done well, as I have undertaken it immediately under the sanction of the princess; and to tell you the truth, though I have a very good opinion of your general knowledge, I'm afraid you do not readily see the jut of this fellow's reasoning." Shebbeare, a little nettled at this, threw down the book in a kind of passion, and exclaimed, "Why, zounds! this is a confounded harsh censure, not to allow an author to understand his own work." "What do you mean?" says Doddington, quite astonished. "Why I mean to say that I wrote the pamphlet, and therefore I think I know best how to answer it."

quainting them, that he had made a requisition for a body of Hessian troops, pursuant to the treaty lately made with the landgraf of Hesse-Cassel, to be brought forthwith to this country. Both houses thanked the king for his message.

The unanimity with which these addresses of thanks had been carried, encouraged Mr. Fox to move another address to his majesty, which was, beseeching him for the more effectual defence of this island, and for the better security of the religion and liberty of his subjects against the threatened attack by a foreign enemy, he would be graciously pleased to order twelve battalions of his electoral troops, together with the usual detachment of artillery, to be forthwith brought into this kingdom.

Some debate took place upon this motion, but individuals were generally afraid to oppose it, because they foresaw it would be immediately said they were Jacobites, and meant to favour a design of bringing in the Pretender again, and Mr. Fox threw out this idea when he made the motion. Accordingly, in the following month both Hessians and Hanoverians arrived in England, and were encamped in different parts of the kingdom.

The loss of Minorca and of the fort of Oswego in America, with some other defeats and miscarriages, joined to the appearance of the Hessians and Hanoverians in England, roused the indignation of the people, and a spirit of resentment and of detestation of the ministers, pervaded every part of the kingdom.

The ministers, alarmed at the storm of public

indignation which was ready to burst upon their heads, determined to resign; such at this time was the vascillating state of the councils of the nation. The duke of Newcastle applied to Mr. Pitt. His grace assured him, the king was perfectly agreeable to take him into his service. Mr. Pitt answered him somewhat abruptly, that he would not accept of any situation under his grace. This rebuff took place on the 20th of October 1756. The king then desired the duke of Devonshire to go to Mr. Pitt, who was at Hayes in Kent, and offer him a *carte-blanche*, except as to Mr. Fox, whom the king wished to keep in his service. Mr. Pitt gave a positive refusal as to Mr. Fox.

When Mr. Fox heard this, he immediately resigned. His resignation threw the ministry into confusion, and distressed the king extremely. He d—d the intrigues of Leicester-house, and swore the prince of Wales should have an establishment of his own; for, that he should be emancipated from *female influence*. The duke of Newcastle and the rest of his majesty's servants also resigned.

At the earnest request of the king, the duke of Devonshire took the duke of Newcastle's place at the Treasury, and again waited on Mr. Pitt at Hayes, with a message from his majesty, requesting to know the terms upon which he would come into office. Mr. Pitt gave his arrangement. Himself to be secretary of state, lord Temple first lord of the admiralty, Mr. Legge chancellor of the exchequer, the great seal to be in commission; George Grenville* to be treasurer of the navy, J.

* Doctor Johnson, in his first edition of his *Falkland Islands*, says of this minister, that he possessed talents not universally afforded to mankind; for had he gotten the Manilla ransom, he could have counted it. There was, however, an indecision in his character which did not fit him for the important station which he held, and it gave rise to the following severe remark. When the honest and upright commissary Mr. Blakeney was conducted to Mr. Grenville, at the end of the German War (as it was called,) by general Conway, to receive some remuneration for his active, faithful, and disinterested services, he proposed to the minister a certain daily allowance for his life. The minister gave him only half. General Conway said on the occasion, "My old friend, you know he does every thing by halves."

Grenville a lord of the treasury, &c. The whole were accepted.

Whilst this change of ministers was in agitation, the king gave orders for the return of the Hanoverians to Germany. It was the king's resolution to assemble an army for the defence of Hanover early in the spring, and he gave the command of it to the duke of Cumberland. It was with this view that the treaty with Hesse had been made, and that the duke of Cumberland had formed the last ministry, as consisting of those persons on whom his royal highness thought he could best confide; and, that was the reason the king wished to keep Mr. Fox in his place, because he knew the duke had a great partiality for him. But the tide of public odium having set so strong against Mr. Fox and his co-adjutors, the court was obliged to surrender, and to admit Mr. Pitt. The king, however, continued his resolution to pursue the plan which he had laid down, for the protection of his German dominions.

The late cabinet, however, saw that the king was very far from being reconciled to Mr. Pitt. They consequently employed every secret whisper to widen the breach, and filled every private channel to the royal ear with prejudices against him. An inquiry was instituted into the causes of the loss of Minorca, which, if possible, increased their disapprobation. But the circumstance which offended his majesty most, was Mr. Pitt's refusal to support the army in Germany, in which refusal he was joined by Mr. Legge. The duke was preparing to set out for Germany; and the royal request, at first, was to have an immediate supply of money, without waiting for the approbation

of parliament. The king and duke, finding the new ministers hostile to their plan of German measures, determined to remove them. The duke declared he would not go to Germany, unless Mr. Pitt was removed; Mr. Pitt declared he should not have the money. On the 5th of April, 1757, the king commanded Mr. Pitt to resign; and on the ninth the duke set out for Germany. Lord Temple was also turned out, and lord Winchelsea was put at the head of the Admiralty. Mr. Legge* was also turned out, and lord Mansfield was appointed to succeed him. No successor was appointed to Mr. Pitt; lord Holderness, the other secretary of state, executed the duties of both offices.

This change of the ministry operated like a convulsion on the nation, no ostensible cause being given for it. The people were exasperated beyond measure at the dismissions of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge, whom they now connected as the political saviours of the kingdom. The public, at this time, ascribed their dismissal to the secret influence, which it was believed, the late ministers still possessed in the king's closet.

It was judged unconstitutional to address the throne upon these changes, another method was therefore adopted to convince the king of the sentiments of the nation. This was to send addresses of thanks to the dismissed patriots, expressing the highest approbation of their conduct, with presents of the freedom of most of the principal corporations, in golden and other boxes of great value, and exquisite workmanship.

This intestine commotion alarmed the court exceedingly, and it foresaw the danger of permitting the ferment to increase. The duke of

* The strong political friendship which subsisted between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge, gave rise to an excellent bon-mot from the duke of Newcastle, to whom it was one day said, Mr. Legge would be nothing without Mr. Pitt. "You are right," said the duke, "it would be a leg without a body."

Newcastle, though at this time not in office, was the first person who went to the king. His majesty actually wept. He complained of all his servants, and thought none of them had acted with fidelity towards him since the time of sir R. Walpole. At length, he consented to give the duke of Newcastle full power to negotiate with Mr. Pitt and all his friends. The duke of Newcastle* saw Mr. Pitt and lord Temple privately, for, although the stream of popularity ran in favour of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge, yet in all measures of consequence Mr. Pitt solely confided in lord Temple. The duke informed Mr. Pitt, that he was commissioned by the king to agree to Mr. Pitt's terms, and he hoped and trusted that such condescension in his majesty would meet with the most favourable interpretation. Mr. Pitt's reply was full of gratitude and humility to the king. The duke then said, that it was his majesty's wish to form a healing administration, and he left it entirely to the duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pitt, to settle every arrangement in the most amicable manner.

Mr. Pitt's first proposition was, the exclusion of lord Anson from the cabinet. The duke of Newcastle pleaded earnestly to have lord Hardwicke in the cabinet; he said it was

the king's request. Mr. Pitt consented, on condition that Sir R. Henley had the great seal. This stipulation rose from the prince of Wales's party at Leicester-house. Himself to be secretary of state as before, and lord Temple to be privy seal. The duke of Newcastle offered lord Temple the treasury; Mr. Pitt interfered, said that could not be, his grace must go there himself†: but, if at any time hereafter he should think proper to retire, lord Temple should succeed him. Having gone on some time in making the arrangements, the duke said, "What shall we do with Mr. Fox?" Mr. Pitt replied, "He may have the pay-office." This was a triumph to Mr. Pitt, to put Mr. Fox *below* him, and into the office he had left. But it was a triumph too diminutive for the dignity of Mr. Pitt's mind. However, he enjoyed it, which shews the influence of little passions even in men of the first abilities. Lord Anson was proposed for the admiralty. Mr. Pitt declared that lord Anson should never have the correspondence. The duke replied, that would be such an alteration of the board as could not be made without his majesty's consent. Here the conference broke off. Mr. Pitt had subsequently an audience of the king. He laid before his majesty the differ-

* Although George II. was constantly employing the duke of Newcastle, yet his majesty once said of him, that he lost an hour every morning, and was running after it all the rest of the day.

† There were two reasons for this, and they shall be made known, as they will not only exhibit the distracted state of the councils of the nation at that time, but also the deep spirit of intrigue which pervaded every party. The first reason was, the house of commons had been chosen by Mr. Pelham, at whose death his *pocket list*, as it was then called, was given to the duke of Newcastle; and, this circumstance made *another* stipulation in the arrangement, which was, that the duke should *transfer his majority* to Mr. Pitt. This fact was described by Mr. Pitt himself on a subsequent occasion, in these words: "I borrowed the duke of Newcastle's majority to carry on the public business." The second was, lord Temple would have had his brother Mr. George Grenville for his chancellor of the exchequer, and in that case what would have been done with Mr. Legge? The public at that time would not have approved of any other person in that situation. Mr. Pitt also knew that there had been a *private* understanding between the duke of Newcastle and Mr. Legge, for some time past.

Our sole motive in thus exposing the intricate wheels of the state machine, is to exhibit the appalling situation in which the late king stood on his accession to the throne, and which was occasioned by the ever-vacillating councils which distinguished the last years of the reign of George II.

ence between the duke of Newcastle and himself, concerning the Admiralty. The king consented that the correspondence with the naval officers usually in the board of admiralty, should be given to Mr. Pitt, and that the board should only sign the despatches, without being privy to their contents*. It was at this audience that the following remarkable words were spoken, which Lord Nugent repeated in the house of commons, in the year 1784. Mr. Pitt said, "Sire, give me your confidence, and I will deserve it." The king replied, without hesitation, "Deserve my confidence, and you shall have it." Lord Nugent added, that Mr. Pitt at last so won upon the king, that he was able to turn his very partialities in favour of Germany to the benefit of his country. Lord Anson took the admiralty under Mr. Pitt's limitation, and Mr. Fox took the pay-office. Mr. Legge had the exchequer; all the arrangements being thus settled, the parties all kissed hands in July 1757, and the nation was thereby restored to tranquillity and satisfaction.

The duke of Cumberland failed on the continent. His royal highness attributed his failure to the want of British troops and money; his army was not only inferior in number, but consisted entirely of Germans. The French pursued him almost to the sea coast. The king of Denmark commiserated his situation, and under that monarch's mediation a convention was signed in the month of September, 1757, between the Duke and Marshal Richelieu, the French general, by which it was stipulated that

the allied armies were to retire to their respective countries.

The king of Prussia was driven out of Bohemia this summer, and an account arrived of the suffocation at Calcutta.

Under all these discouraging circumstances, Mr. Pitt had to commence his new administration. His first measure was an attempt to make a descent upon the coast of France. His view was to oblige the French to recall their troops from Hanover, to protect their own kingdom. A fleet and an army were assembled: the destination was kept a profound secret. Sir Edward Hawke was commander of the fleet, and Mr. Pitt corresponded with him. It is not a little remarkable, that when Mr. Pitt ordered the fleet to be equipped, and appointed the period for its being at the place of rendezvous, Lord Anson said, "it was impossible to comply with the order; the ships could not be got ready in the time limited, and he wanted to know where they were going in order to victual them accordingly." This ignorance of the first lord of the admiralty of the actual destination of a fleet, is without its parallel in British history, and it does not speak in strong terms of the confidence which subsisted between Mr. Pitt and his coadjutors. Mr. Pitt's reply to Lord Anson, instead of informing him of the destination of the fleet, was, "that if the ships were not ready at the time required, he would lay the matter before the king, and impeach his lordship in the house of commons. This spirited menace produced the man-of-war and

* This may appear obscure without the following explanation. The general rule or custom is, the secretary of state sends all the orders respecting the navy which have been agreed to in the cabinet to the admiralty, and the secretary to the board writes those orders again in the form of instructions from the admiralty to the admiral or captain of the fleet, expedition, &c., for whom they are designed, which instructions *must* be signed by three of the board. But during Mr. Pitt's administration, he wrote the instructions himself, and sent them to their lordships to be signed; always ordering his secretary to put a sheet of white paper over the writing. Thus they were kept in perfect ignorance of what they signed, and the secretary and clerks of the board were all in the same state of exclusion.

transports all ready in perfect compliance with the order. They sailed on the 8th of September, 1757, from Spithead; the force was considerable, and had it succeeded must have made a deep impression. After lying some time before Rochfort, the fleet returned. The cause of the miscarriage was not precisely ascertained. Mr. Pitt ascribed it to the inactivity of Sir John Mordaunt, who had the command of the troops: the friends of that officer ascribed it to the plan, which, in derision, they called *one of Mr. Pitt's visions*.

The distresses of the king of Prussia daily increased. The Russians quickened their march against him. His territories were invaded on every side, and the French were plundering Hanover. The alarm of the king was at the utmost height. The papers teemed with the most virulent abuse of the duke of Cumberland, and the caricaturists exhausted their ingenuity on his royal highness in his flight. One caricature in particular gave considerable umbrage at court. It represented George II. in one of his palaces at Hanover, taking up the flooring of one of the rooms, and removing from underneath the boards a human skeleton, with

a scroll issuing from his mouth, on which was written—"Such are the riches of Hanover*."

In this situation of affairs, the minister framed two propositions. The first was to send a fleet into the Baltic, as early in the spring of 1758 as the season would permit, to overawe the Swedes and Russians, particularly the latter, and to support the king of Prussia. The most formidable powers against the king of Prussia were Austria and Russia. Against Austria he was able to defend himself; but Russia, being a naval as well as a military power, he could not oppose her with equal facility. Upon this ground the proposition was made to the court of Copenhagen, who at first seemed to approve of it. The other proposition was to the court of Madrid. The sovereignty of the Mediterranean being lost to Great Britain, with the island of Minorca; our ships having no port in that sea wherein they could lie, or refit, it was become almost impossible to keep any fleet there, and absolutely impracticable, in time of war with the house of Bourbon, to carry on any considerable trade in the Levant. For these reasons Gibraltar was become of less importance to this country than formerly, while the expense

* This arose from the following remarkable fact, the particulars of which are not generally known. Count Koningsmark, who assassinated Mr. Thynne, in Pall-mall, afterwards became an admirer of the wife of the electoral prince of Hanover, who was to succeed to the English throne by the style of George I. The prince was often absent with the army, and Koningsmark was suspected to have occupied his place. The elector being enraged at the real, or supposed, insult, ordered Koningsmark to be strangled. When George II. made his first journey to Hanover, he ordered some repairs in his palace, and the body was found under the floor of the princess's dressing-room. It is supposed, the first cause of suspicion arose from Koningsmark's hat being found in the apartment of the princess. Dr. Hoadley took this circumstance for one of the incidents of his comedy of the *Suspicious Husband*; but in the play the lady is found to be immaculate. This gave great satisfaction to George II., who was convinced of his mother's innocence. George I. was, however, separated from his wife, and there was no queen in his reign. He had two mistresses, one was Miss Schulenberg, afterwards created duchess of Kendal**; a tall, thin, gawky, figure; the other was the countess of Platen, who was created countess of Darlington, and who, for size, might have been compared to an elephant and castle. The importation of this couple of German beauties, occasioned at the time a great degree of mirth.

** On the marriage of the late lamented princess Charlotte, it was intended to create the prince of Saxe-Coburg Saalfeld duke of Kendal; but from the very questionable situation of the duchess of Kendal, of the reign of George I., it was considered an insuperable obstacle to the adoption of that title, by the then heiress presumptive to the crown of this kingdom.

to maintain and defend it in case of war must be necessarily increased; therefore the proposition was to *cede Gibraltar to Spain*, if the court of Madrid would undertake to detach France from the war against Prussia and Hanover. The fact is important, and may surprise those who never heard it; but it is to be found in a despatch to sir Benjamin Keane, who was at that time British Ambassador at Madrid, and to Gibraltar was added the British Settlements in Honduras and the Musquito shore. This proposition to Spain is the most indelible stain upon the administration of Mr. Pitt. Fortunately for this country, Spain could not, at that time, accede to the proposition, and one of the brightest jewels in the crown of England was preserved. The possession of Gibraltar appeared an eye-sore to Mr. Pitt; he would have ceded it to Spain in 1761 if he could, and thereby have dissolved the Bourbon family compact. In the negotiation for peace in 1783, the Spanish minister at London insisted on the cession of Gibraltar; but having no equivalent to give, the earl of Shelburne, afterwards marquis of Lansdown, firmly refused it, and the whole negotiation for peace was on the point of breaking off entirely, when the Spanish minister received instructions from his court, to give up the point. Every reader will make his own comment on these extraordinary facts, which appear as disagreeable blotches in the history of that eventful period, and which will for ever remain on record, as a proof of the fallibility of the most consummate politician.

It must, however, be conceded, that Mr. Pitt laboured under many disadvantages at the time of his restoration to the office of secretary of state; his former plans had either been de-

feated or rendered useless, and he was obliged to make great sacrifices to correct the errors of others, before he could carry his future plans into execution. Nothing but the magnanimity of his spirit prevented the same interference which had chilled the execution of his former measures from extending its blighting influence over his future designs. When the fleet returned from Rochefort, a puerile scheme was proposed by those, whose impolitic measures had given birth to the Baltic alliance against us, to send the fleet to the assistance of the duke of Cumberland, who was flying before the French in Hanover. Mr. Pitt alone resisted the proposal, upon which the duke of Newcastle and lord Hardwicke who had pressed it, gave it up. Mr. Pitt had not a thorough confidence in his coadjutors, and therefore he did not always assign his reasons for his opinion. On this occasion, he only said, that the assistance of a naval armament in the North had been frustrated; and therefore the scene, as well as the instrument, of war must be changed before any hopes of success could be entertained; but if a contrary opinion prevailed, he would lay the seals at his majesty's feet, and retire from his situation. The cabinet ministers from this time resigned their judgment, in which they were influenced by two motives; one was a dread of his superior abilities, which threw their minor talents into the shade; the other was an expectation, that by permitting him to indulge in the exercise of his own opinions, he would precipitate his own exclusion from power, by drawing upon himself some capital disgrace, which they were confident would at the same time restore to them the administration of government*.

* At this period, and for several months previously, a torrent of papers and pamphlets had issued from the press against Mr. Pitt, condemning his plans, his measures, his principles, his politics, and even reviling his person; in which the king himself was not spared, for having taken him into his service, and for not dismissing him; all of which were permitted to

The duke of Cumberland returned to England, and finding that his conduct had met with the disapprobation of the king, who disavowed the convention of Closterseven, he instantly resigned all his military appointments, and retired to Windsor.

The king of Prussia's great victory at Rosbach over the French and Germans, on the 5th of November 1757, gave affairs in general a wholly different aspect. No event during the war was attended with such interesting consequences. This victory may be said to have changed the scene, the plan, and the principle of the war. Besides the emancipation which it immediately gave to the king of Prussia, its effects were no less instantaneous on the councils of Great Britain. The British minister possessed an understanding and a genius to seize a fortunate circumstance, and to improve it to the utmost advantage. Parliament had been appointed to meet on the 15th of November. Intelligence of this victory arrived at St. James's on the 9th in the morning. The moment the despatches were read, the minister resolved to prorogue the parliament for a fortnight; notwithstanding every preparation had been made for opening the session on the 15th. The reason of this sudden prorogation was to give time to concert a new plan of operations, and to write another speech for the king; for, the speech that had been designed would not apply to this great and unexpected change of affairs. Whether there was any precedent for this extraordinary step was not in the contemplation of the minister. In taking a resolution that involved concerns of the greatest magnitude, he was not to be influenced by precedents.

George II., though not possessed of brilliant talents, yet to a strong firmness of mind added a long experience of men and public affairs, with a sufficient share of penetration to distinguish, even in his present short acquaintance with Mr. Pitt, and particularly by his instantaneous resolution of proroguing the parliament, that he was a bold and intelligent minister; qualities which were perfectly agreeable to the king, because the want of personal courage was not amongst his defects. The king himself first suggested to his minister the resumption of his Hanoverian troops. It was the very measure which Mr. Pitt had resolved to propose when he advised the prorogation of parliament, and it was only by accident or chance that the proposition came first from the king. The king and his minister therefore were in perfect unison upon the first mention of this important subject. From this moment the king gave his confidence to Mr. Pitt, and the latter upon discovering the whole of the king's views, said he could make them secondary and subservient to the interests of Great Britain. During the remainder of the reign they acted together under the influence of the same congeniality of sentiment, and thereby naturally fell into a perfect union and cordiality of opinion upon all public measures.

Both houses met on the 1st of December 1757, according to the singular prorogation already mentioned. Mr. Pitt delivered a message from the king, acquainting the house that he had put his army in motion in Hanover, to act in concert with the king of Prussia, and requesting their support. An adequate sum was immediately voted without a dissenting voice.

die unnoticed. One day, when Mr. Grenville mentioned some of them to him, he smiled, and only said—"The press is like the ass, a chartered libertine**."

** Shakspeare. *Henry V.*

Mr. alderman Beckford said a few words upon the occasion, which, as they tend to explain the new principle of politics, shall not be omitted. "If the Hanoverians and Hessians," he said, "were to be entirely under the direction of British councils, the larger the sum that was granted in order to render that army effectual, the more likely it would be to answer the end for which it was given; that is, to try the issue of the war with France, than which in his judgment there never was so favourable an opportunity as the present. But if the *regency of Hanover* were to have the disposal of the money, and the disposition of the army, he would not give a shilling towards its subsistence."

The parliament was never known to be so unanimous as at this time. The fleet and army sent against Rochefort* having returned without making the impression intended, Sir John Mordaunt was put under arrest; and being a member of parliament, the king sent a message to the commons, acquainting them of the restraint upon one of their members. They thanked the king for his attention to their privileges.

It is impossible to read the following account which Mr. Pitt gave in the house of commons, of the management of the public business at this time, without an extraordinary degree of surprise being excited, that with a vigilant and enterprising enemy, the nation was not brought to the brink of irretrievable ruin. He declared solemnly that his belief was, that there was a

determined resolution both in the naval and military commanders against any vigorous exertion of the national power. He affirmed, though his majesty appeared ready to embrace every measure proposed by his ministers for the honour and interest of his British dominions, yet scarcely a man could be found with whom the execution of any one plan in which there was the least appearance of danger, could with confidence be trusted. He particularized the inactivity of lord Loudon in America, from whose force the nation had a right to form great expectations; from whom there had been received no intelligence, except one small scrap of paper, containing a few lines of no moment. He further declared, that with a force greater than ever the nation had heretofore maintained, with a king and ministry ardently desirous of redeeming her glory and promoting her interest, a shameful dislike to the service every where prevailed. Nor was it amongst the officers alone that indolence and inactivity appeared, those who filled the other departments of military service, seemed to be affected with the same indifference. The victuallers, contractors, purveyors, were never to be found but upon occasions of their own personal advantage. In conversation they appeared totally ignorant of their own business. The extent of their knowledge went only to the making of false accounts, in which science they were the most consummate adepts with whom he had ever been acquainted.

* One of the reasons given for the failure of the expedition against Rochefort was very singular; it was that some who should have executed it, did not *understand their orders*, the express terms not being in their natural language. On this subject, an energetic writer, a member of parliament at that time, says, "Let me not be understood to reproach the officers in a British army for not understanding the French language, no—far otherwise; but by what fatality came a French phrase, this cursed *COUP-DE-MAIN*, into an English army's orders? Is not our own language sufficient to express all that is great, and bold, and brave, and daring? It has been the language of conquerors, and it becomes their mouths. We have had ambassadors who scorned, even in a French court, the condescension of speaking the French language; and, is it to come to us at home? Are orders to be executed against France, couched in the language of the country that is to be attacked?"

What a picture for the prime minister to draw of the state of the nation, in regard to the transaction of its public business; and how great must have been the difficulty of carrying her plans into effect, under such depressing and calamitous obstacles! This detection, however, of the abuses in the several departments, where they had long prevailed, and of the want of exertion in the commanders-in-chief, which had also been obvious, operated in a manner highly advantageous to the public service. Those gentlemen, as well as the nation, now saw that there was a minister at the head of affairs, who not only knew the duties of his own office, but the duties of others; and therefore they might expect him to examine their conduct, to traverse all parts of it with a keen and penetrating eye. This apprehension roused them from their lethargy in an instant. They awakened as from a dream, and seemed to be electrified by the fire of his mind; they burned with fresh ardour in every subsequent enterprise. The British honour was recovered. The events of the war placed the name of Great Britain upon the highest pinnacle of national honour.

The session closed on the 20th of June, 1758. The British arms were successful in every quarter of the globe. In Asia, owing to the reinforcement Mr. Pitt sent by commodore Stevens, when he was in office the preceding year, the French were defeated at Massulipatam and in two naval engagements.

In America, Louisburg was taken, also the Isle of St. John, and the forts Du Quesne and Fronteniac. In Africa, Senegal surrendered. In Europe, admiral Osborne defeated and took the French fleet from Toulon, destined for the relief of Louisburg; and sir Edward Hawke drove another fleet upon the sand-banks on the coast of France, that was equipped at Rochefort

for the same purpose. In November, 1759, sir Edward Hawke obtained another complete victory over the French fleet off Brest, which annihilated the naval power of France.

It was in this year of unanimity and victory that the seeds were sown of those divisions which appeared soon after the accession of George III. The patronage of places, that never-failing source of discord, was claimed by lord Bute. Upon lord Besborough going to the post-office, in the month of May, 1759, in the room of lord Leicester, deceased, there was a vacancy at the treasury-board, and the duke of Newcastle proposed to fill it with Mr. James Oswald, from the board of trade, who was recommended by lord Halifax; but lord Bute interfered; he told the duke of Newcastle, "he came to him, in the name of all those on that side of the administration, who thought they had as good a right to recommend as any other party whatever, and it was their wish, that Mr. (afterwards sir) G. Elliot, of the Admiralty, might be appointed." The duke of Newcastle, finding himself impeded in his own wishes, and resolving not to comply with those of lord Bute, appointed lord North to fill the vacancy.

This was the first cause of difference; but the second is the more important, as it places the prince of Wales in a very unconstitutional light, and in which he was involved by the noxious and dangerous advice of lord Bute. Truth obliges us, in this instance, not to avert our view from the scandalous attempt, on the part of lord Bute, to commit his prince and his pupil in an act diametrically opposite to the principles of that constitution, which, as the heir-apparent to the throne, he was sworn to defend, and which naturally exposed him to the severe animadversions of the people, and which, in a short time, broke out in the most alarming manner, not only against himself, but against

all those by whom he was surrounded. Lord Bute, instead of making his prince the instrument of his own political designs, should have exposed to his view the answer which his illustrious father gave to the Quakers, on their petition to him to exert his influence in their behalf in the House of Commons; and which, at that time, would have formed a striking contrast with the infraction of the constitution, which he was then advising. The circumstance was as follows: A vacancy had occurred in the representation of the county of Southampton, by the marquis of Winchester becoming duke of Bolton; and lord Bute, as he *declared* by the desire of the prince of Wales, signified to Mr. Legge, that, although he (Mr. Legge) had been invited by a great majority of the gentlemen of the county to represent them, yet, that he must not accept of those invitations, but yield all pretensions in this matter to sir Simeon Stuart, a countryman of lord Bute's, and who had his particular recommendation. Mr. Legge lamented that he had not known the prince's inclinations sooner; that his engagements were made, and he could not break them. Mr. Legge was elected; but when the prince became king, and lord Bute exercised his ascendancy over him in such an extraordinary manner, although Mr. Legge had been made chancellor of the exchequer by the voice of the nation, and his conduct in office was distinguished by the strictest integrity, yet lord Bute did not forget the Southampton election, and the discomfiture which he met with, and Mr. Legge *was turned out*.

On the 13th of November, 1759, parliament met, and the prince of Wales took his seat on the first day.

The efforts of Great Britain over every part of the globe, were, at this time, amazing, and the expense of operation greater than had ever

been disbursed by any nation before. The king of Prussia received a subsidy; a large body of English troops commanded the extensive peninsula of India; another army of twenty thousand men confirmed their conquests in North America; thirty thousand men were employed in Germany, and several other bodies dispersed in different garrisons, in various parts of the world. But all these were trifling to the force maintained at sea, which was victorious wherever it appeared, and had totally annihilated the French on that element. Indeed, France was at this time reduced to an almost unexampled state of depression and debility. In every effort repulsed; in every hope defeated; in every quarter subjected by the prowess of her rival. She was, during the three years of the administration of Mr. Pitt, more humbled than she had been by the ten years' war of the duke of Marlborough; her marine was annihilated; her peasantry, the nursery of her armies, exhausted; her commerce was completely crippled; her arts languished, and her manufactures were abandoned; her finances were left in a state equally calamitous; the payment of public bills was suspended; and so low was her credit, that she evidently tottered on the verge of bankruptcy. The interior provinces exhibited only scenes of desolation, wretchedness, and woe; the men were swept away from the fields, and women were not only seen to drive, but sometimes even to hold, the plough.

Previously to closing this succinct account of the leading political events of the latter years of the reign of George II., without which the state of the political world at the succession of George III. would appear confused and unintelligible, forming, as they do, but links of one great and comprehensive chain, we shall briefly notice one legislative enactment which took

place on Wednesday the 22d of May, 1751, which was an act for abolishing the old style, and for establishing the new one, already in use in most parts of christendom. The Julian year or old style continued to be used all over Europe until Pope Gregory XIII., with the help of the best astronomers, in the year 1582, discovered the inconvenience of the Julian computation, whereby it appeared that in 129 years $337\frac{1}{4}$ days, it made an error of one whole day; and that since the Council of Nice, in the year 1701, the said old style had made an error, which was computed to be eleven days. So great was our error at the commencement of the eighteenth century. Pope Gregory's main intention in that alteration was to regulate the time of celebrating the feast of Easter, but the chief concern of this government was to reduce our style to that of almost all the west of Europe, the difference of eleven days often occasioning the most serious mistakes in business; added to which was the absurdity of beginning a legal year on the 25th of March, whereby a whole year was sometimes mistaken in our chronological histories; henceforth it was determined that the year was to commence from the 1st of January. Thus king George III. was born on the 24th of May, but which, on the alteration of the styles, was changed to June the 4th. Russia is now the only country which adheres to the old style.

In the year 1760, England was on the pinnacle of its greatness, and this may be considered as one of the most brilliant epochs of English history; and at this period, in the full career of success, George II. paid the debt of nature, in his palace at Kensington.

On the 24th of October, he had risen at his usual hour without any apparent signs of indisposition. He called his page, drank his chocolate, and inquired about the wind, as if anxious

for the arrival of the mails. He opened his window, and looked out of it; and seeing it a fine day, said he would walk in the gardens. This passed while the page attended him at breakfast; but on leaving the room the page heard a deep sigh, immediately followed by a noise like the falling of a billet of wood from the fire, and returning hastily, found the king dropped down from his seat, as if in the attempt to ring the bell: his majesty said faintly, "call Amelia," and then expired. The king was instantly raised and laid upon the bed; the princess was called: upon her entering the room, she was told he was dead; but, being a little deaf, and her spirits being hurried by the alarm, she did not understand the import of the words, and ran up to the bed-side, and, stooping tenderly over her father, as thinking he might speak to her in a low voice, she then first discovered he was dead; this shock, so sudden, so unexpected, and so violent, threw her into an agony, and produced a disorder from which she was long in recovering.

His majesty, in the fall, received a small hurt on his temple, and his physicians and surgeons being sent for, came instantly to his assistance but without effect. An attempt was made to bleed him, but the issues of life were dried up. The news of this event, which threw the court into the utmost consternation, was carried to the secretaries of state; upon which the great officers of state were sent for, and Mr. Pitt, whose coach was ready at the door to drive to his country-seat, was ordered instantly to Kew, where he acquainted the prince of Wales, now king George III. with the great event in form. The king having first heard it on the road, by a messenger who had been despatched by one of the pages of the presence, had turned back, and at Kew he received a letter from the princess Amelia, a little before Mr. Pitt's arrival.

Upon this intelligence, his majesty repaired immediately to meet the privy-council, which upon the king's demise, had assembled with all possible expedition.

The following is a summary of the leading events of the life of George II.

He was born in 1683, and when in his 15th year, was presented by his grandfather, the prince of Zell, to king William, who received him with the fondness of a parent. On the 4th of April, 1706, he was elected knight companion of the most noble order of the garter; on the 2d of June following was invested with the noble habit and ensigns of the order; and, on the 22d of December, 1710, was installed at Windsor, with the dukes of Devonshire and Argyle, lord Halifax being his proxy. In November 1706, he was created duke, marquis, earl, and viscount, by the titles of duke and marquis of Cambridge, earl of Milford Haven, viscount Northallerton, and baron of Tewkesbury.—It was observed by some friends of his highness, at that time, that it was a defect to give him the peerage of England, and not the precedence of all other peers.

In 1708, he appeared in the character of a volunteer, during a campaign in the Netherlands, under John Duke of Marlborough. On the 22d of June he arrived at the camp, and on the 11th of July, the battle of Oudenard was fought, in which his electoral highness placing himself at the head of a squadron of Hanoverian dragoons, charged the enemy sword in hand, with great intrepidity. His horse was killed under him, and colonel Lusechky, who commanded the squadron, was slain, bravely fighting by his side. On the accession of George I. to the throne in 1714, orders were brought from Hanover to the regency to prepare a patent for creating the electorate prince, George Augustus, prince of Wales.

George I. dying at Osnaburgh, June 11, 1727, on the 14th the melancholy news arrived in England, whereupon the lords of the privy-council, assembling at Leicester-house, gave orders for proclaiming his son, George, prince of Wales, king of England, which was performed about ten o'clock in the morning of the next day. On Wednesday, the 11th of October 1727, (O.S.) his majesty was crowned in Westminster-abbey, with his royal consort the princess Caroline Wilhelmina Dorothea, daughter of John Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg Anspach, to whom he was married on the 22d day of June 1705.

Conformably to the usual etiquette, the physicians met on the 26th, to examine the body of George II., and delivered the following opinion as to the cause of death.

Kensington-Palace, Oct. 26, 1760.

In obedience to the order transmitted to us, by the right hon. Mr. Vice-Chamberlain: We, the undersigned, have this day opened and examined the body of his late majesty, in the presence of sir Edward Wilmot, bart. and Doctor Nicholls, two of his late majesty's physicians; and first, on opening the body, we found all the parts therein contained in a natural and healthy state, except only that on the surface of the kidney there were some hydatids, or watery bladders, which, however, we determined could not have been at this time of any material consequence.

On opening the breast, we observed the pericardium, or bag which contains the heart, extraordinarily distended, which was owing to a large effusion of blood that had been discharged therein, from a rupture in the substance of the right ventricle of the heart. The quantity of the blood in the pericardium was at least a pint, the most part of which was strangely coagulated.

The rupture of the ventricle, and the consequent effusion of blood in the pericardium, were certainly the immediate cause of his late majesty's sudden death.

The brain, lungs, and all the other parts, were in a perfect state.

E. Wilmot,
F. Nicholls,

John Ranby,
C. Hawkins.

Various are the features which have been transmitted to posterity of the character of George II. He was less esteemed for the qualities of his head, than of his heart; his capacity was too circumscribed for his situation, and uniformly during his reign, the monarch was eclipsed by the minister; the imperfection of his understanding often betrayed him into errors of judgment, and the natural obstinacy of his temper was little disposed to correct them, but his impetuosity was often tempered with candour and generosity; his opinions were often influenced by his feelings; his prejudices, except on some particular subjects, were commonly testified by his principles. He never suffered sycophants to abuse his favour, or mistresses to prostitute his authority; and his weaknesses of character, however they might deduct from his own personal respectability, were not allowed to interfere with the welfare of the people. He was passionate, but the ebullition soon subsided*. To literature he disclaimed all pretensions, and could neither admire nor appreciate genius. In history he was still more deficient than the duke of Marlborough, who declared that the only *English history* he ever read was Shakspeare's plays. Courage was the object of his most cordial esteem, and cowardice of his supreme contempt. His severe conduct towards his son, Frederick prince of Wales, is an indelible blot upon his memory; but George II. had himself been treated with yet greater asperity by George I.; and it frequently happens that those who have in childhood been exposed to cruelty and neglect, are in some degree tinctured by unsocial and unamiable dispositions in their maturer years.

The following proclamation, which appeared in the *London Gazette* of October 26, 1760, announcing the accession of king George III., was the first official communication to the kingdom of the great events which had taken place.

Yesterday in the morning, between the hours of seven and eight, our late most gracious sovereign king George the Second, was suddenly seized at his palace at Kensington, by a violent disorder, and fell down speechless, and soon expired, notwithstanding all possible methods used for his recovery. His majesty departed this life in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign, beloved, honoured, and regretted by his subjects for his eminent and royal virtues.

Whereupon the lords of the privy-council assembled at Carlton-house, gave order for proclaiming his present majesty, who made a most gracious declaration to them, and caused all the lords and others of the late king's privy-council, to be sworn of his majesty's privy-council.

And this day, about noon, his majesty was proclaimed; first, before Saville-house, where the officers of state, nobility, and privy counsellors were present, with the officers of arms, all being on foot: then the officers of arms, being mounted on horseback, the like was done at Charing-Cross, within Temple-Bar, at the end of Woodstreet in Cheapside, and lastly, at the Royal Exchange, with the usual solemnities; the principal officers of state, a great number of the nobility, and of other persons of distinction, attending during the whole ceremony.

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to his mercy our late sovereign lord king George the Second, of blessed memory, by whose decease the imperial crowns of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, are solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty prince George prince of Wales; we therefore, the lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, being here assisted with those of his late majesty's privy-council, with numbers of other principal gentlemen of quality, with the lord mayor, aldermen, and citizens of London, do now hereby, with

* It would be fortunate if every monarch vented his rage in the same harmless manner, and upon the same insensible subjects as George II. did. Whenever he was in a passion, it was his custom to take his hat off his head, and kick it about the room; and one day he excited the risibility of his attendants, for having no hat upon his head, his wig became the substitute, and it was seen flying in all directions.

one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim, That the high and mighty prince, George prince of Wales, is now, by the death of our late sovereign, of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord George the Third, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, and so forth : To whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless the royal prince George the Third with long and happy years to reign over us.

Given at the court at Carlton-house, this 25th day of October, 1760.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

WILLIAM	C. Pratt	T. Townshend
Thomas Cant	Dartmouth	James Peachy
Leeds	Rob. Bertie	Fr. Ramsden
Holderness	Southwell	James Cresset
Cholmondeley	Delamer	Rich. Potenger
Holles Newcastle	J. Brudenel	W. Wentworth
Falmouth	E. Wilmot	Js. Dunne
Mansfield	Geo. L. Scott	G. Pocock
Waldegrave	Gilb. Elliot	Jno. Blair
Gower	Andrew Stone	Hamey Palmer
Anson	J. Cleveland	Vincent Mathias
Barrington	Jno. Ranby	P. Fenoulhet
Ligonier	Maj. gen. B. Noel	Simon Parry
W. Pitt	John Boscawen	T. Penn
W. Finch	J. West	Jno. Andrews
T. Robinson	John Pownall	F. Vernon
H. Fox	Edward Godfrey	S. Cottrell.
T. Chitty, mayor		

At the court at Carlton-house, the 25th day of October, 1760.

Present.—The king's most excellent majesty in council.

His majesty being this day present in council, was pleased to make the following declaration, viz. :

The loss that I and the nation have sustained by the death of the king, my grandfather, would have been severely felt at any time ; but coming at so critical a juncture, and so unexpected, it is by many circumstances augmented, and the weight now falling upon me much increased, I feel my own insufficiency to support it as I wish ; but animated by the tenderest affection for this my

native country, and depending on the advice, experience, and abilities, of your lordships, and on the support and assistance of every honest man, I enter with cheerfulness into this arduous situation, and shall make it the business of my life to promote, in every thing, the glory and happiness of these kingdoms, to preserve and strengthen both the constitution in church and state ; and, as I mount the throne in the midst of an expensive, but just and necessary war, I shall endeavour to prosecute it in the manner most likely to bring on an honourable and lasting peace, in concert with my allies.

Whereupon the lords of the council made it their humble request to his majesty, that this his majesty's most gracious declaration to their lordships might be made public, which his majesty was pleased to order accordingly.

F. VERNON.

At the court at Carlton-house, the 25th day of October, 1760.

Present.—The king's most excellent majesty.

His royal highness the	Viscount Falmouth
duke of Cumberland	Viscount Barrington
Archbp. of Canterbury	Viscount Ligonier
Duke of Leeds	Lord Anson
Duke of Newcastle	Lord Mansfield
Earl of Holderness	Mr. Vice Chamberlain
Earl of Cholmondeley	Mr. Secretary Pitt
Earl Waldegrave	Henry Fox, esq.
Earl Gower	Sir Thomas Robinson.

His majesty, at his first coming into the council, was this day pleased to declare, that, understanding that the law requires he should, at his accession to the crown, take and subscribe the oath relating to the security of the church of Scotland, he was now ready to do it this first opportunity ; which his majesty was graciously pleased to do according to the forms used by the law of Scotland, and subscribed two instruments thereof, in the presence of the lords of the council, who witnessed the same ; and his majesty was pleased to order, that one of the said instruments be transmitted to the court of session, to be recorded in the books of sederunt, and afterwards to be forthwith lodged in the public register of Scotland. And that the other of them remain among the records of the council, and be entered in the council-book.

His majesty king George III. was immediately proclaimed by the heralds at Saville-

house, from whence they proceeded to Charing-cross, in the following order :

Farriers of the horse grenadier guards with axes erect.

French horns of the troop.

Troop of horse grenadier guards.

Two knight marshal's officers.

Knight marshal and his men.

Household drums, kettle-drums, and trumpets

Pursuivants, and heralds.

King at arms, supported by two serjeants at arms,
with their maces.

Archbishop of Canterbury in his coach.

Lord viscount Falmouth.

Troop of horse guards.

At Charing-cross a herald again read the proclamation. After which the procession moved on to Temple-bar; the gate of which was shut; and the lord mayor, attended by the aldermen, &c. waited within. After the usual formality of demanding admittance, the gates were opened, and the cavalcade proceeded to the end of Chancery-lane, where the proclamation was again read. Thence they proceeded through the city in the following order, immediately after the heralds:

City drum; trumpets; sheriff's officers; city music;

two city marshals; lord mayor's officers; lord

mayor in a state coach; archbishop of

Canterbury; lord viscount Falmouth.

Aldermen, Sir Robert Ladbrooke; Francis Cockayne, esq.;

Robert Alsop, esq.; Thomas Rawlinson, esq.;

Sir Richard Glyn, bart.; sir William

Moreton, recorder; Robert Scott, esq.;

Sir William Stevenson; Francis Gosling, esq.;

The two sheriffs; chamberlain;

Town clerk.

Troop of horse guards.

The proclamation was also read at the end of Wood-street, Cheapside; and lastly, at the Royal Exchange, which ended the ceremony. The guns were fired at the Park and Tower on this occasion; and the evening concluded with ringing of bells, bonfires, &c. &c.

One of the first public steps which was taken on the accession of George III. was, the lord mayor and aldermen waiting on his majesty on the 28th of October, and paying their compliments of congratulation and condolence in the following address:

Most gracious Sovereign,

Your majesty's truly dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London, beg leave to approach your royal person, and congratulate your majesty upon your happy accession to the imperial crown of these realms; and, at the same time, to condole the loss of our late most gracious sovereign, whose glorious reign and princely virtues must ever make his memory dear to a grateful people.

It is our peculiar happiness, that your majesty's heart is truly English, and that you have discovered in your earliest years, the warmest attention to the laws and constitution of these kingdoms; laws so excellently formed, that as they give liberty to the people, they give power to the prince; and are a mutual support of the prerogatives of the crown, and the rights of the subject.

Your majesty is now in possession of the united hearts of all your people, at a time when the honour and credit of the nation are (by the courage and activity of your majesty's fleets and armies) in the highest extent; a time when we have happily no divisions at home to obstruct those measures, which have carried terror to our enemies abroad.

As your majesty's reign is so happily begun with the universal approbation and joy of the whole nation, permit us, great Sir, to express the high sense we have of your majesty's virtues, by the strongest assurances of our unalterable zeal for your majesty's sacred person and government; being convinced, that your majesty has the true interest of this nation entirely at heart, and that your power will be ever exerted in protecting the trade, rights, and liberties of your subjects. May your majesty reign long in the hearts of your people; and may the crown of these kingdoms ever descend to one of your majesty's illustrious family to the latest posterity.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return this most gracious answer:

I have great satisfaction in the early marks you have

given me of your zeal and affection for me and for my government. And I return you my hearty thanks. You may rely on my tender concern for the rights, trade, and manufactures of the city of London.

On the same day it was unanimously agreed by a court of common council, in commemoration of the accession of his majesty, that the following inscription should be engraven on a plate, and placed upon the first stone of the bridge from Blackfriars to the opposite shore; which was laid by the lord mayor, attended by the committee, with great ceremony, on Friday, October 31, 1760:

Ultimo die Octobris, anno ab incarnatione
MDCCLX.
auspicatissimo principe GEORGIO Tertio
regnum jam ineunte,
Pontis hujus, in reipublicæ commodum
urbisq; majestatem,
(Laté tum flagrante bello)
a S. P. Q. L. suscepti,
Primum Lapidem posuit
THOMAS CHITTY, Miles,
Prætor,
ROBERTO MYLNE, Architecto.
Utque apud posteros extet monumentum
'voluntaris suæ erga virum
qui vigore ingenii, animi constantiâ,
probæ et virtutis suæ felici quâdam contagione,
(favente Deo
faustisq; GEORGII Secundi auspiciis)
Imperium Britannicum
in Asiâ, Africâ, et Americâ,
restituit, auxit, et stabilavit,
Necnon patriæ antiquum honorem et auctoritatem
inter Europæ gentes instauravit,
Cives Londinenses, uno consensu,
Huic Ponti inscribi voluerunt nomen
GULIELMI PITT.

Translated.

On the last day of October, in the year 1760,
and in the beginning of the most auspicious reign
of GEORGE the Third,

Sir THOMAS CHITTY, Knight, Lord Mayor,
laid the First Stone of this Bridge,
Undertaken by the Common Council of London,
(in the height of an extensive War)
for the public accommodation,
and ornament of the city,
ROBERT MYLNE being the Architect
And that there may remain to posterity
a monument of this city's affection to the man
who, by the strength of his genius,
the steadiness of his mind,
and a kind of happy contagion of his probity and
spirit,
(under the Divine favour
and fortunate auspices of GEORGE the Second)
recovered, augmented, and secured,
the British Empire
in Asia, Africa, and America,
And restored the ancient reputation
and influence of his country
amongst the nations of Europe,
The Citizens of London have unanimously voted
This Bridge to be inscribed with the name of
WILLIAM PITT.

A council was held on the 27th, when his royal highness Edward duke of York was sworn of his majesty's most honourable privy council, and took his place at the board on his majesty's right hand. John earl of Bute was also sworn of his majesty's most honourable privy council, and took his place at the board accordingly.

His majesty in council was also this day pleased to order, that the parliament should be prorogued until the 13th day of November.

The following was the order in council for altering the liturgy, issued on the accession of his late majesty:

At the court at Saville-house, the 27th day of October, 1760.

Present, The king's most excellent majesty in council.

Whereas by the late Act of Uniformity, which establisheth the liturgy, and enacts, that no form or order of

common prayers be openly used, other than what is prescribed and appointed to be used in and by the said book, it is notwithstanding provided, that in all those prayers, litanies, and collects, which do anywise relate to the king, queen, or royal progeny, the names be altered and changed from time to time, and fitted to the present occasion, according to direction of lawful authority: his majesty was pleased this day in council to declare his royal will and pleasure, that in all the prayers, liturgies, and collects for the royal family, instead of the words [*their royal highnesses George prince of Wales, the princess dowager of Wales, the dukes, the princesses, and all the royal family*] be inserted [*her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales, and all the royal family.*] And his majesty doth strictly charge and command, that no edition of the common prayer be from henceforth printed but with this amendment; and, that in the mean time, till copies of such editions may be had, all parsons, vicars, and curates within this realm do (for the preventing of mistakes) with the pen correct and amend all such prayers in their church books, according to the foregoing distinction. And for the better notice hereof, that this order be forthwith printed and published, and sent to the several parishes, and that the right reverend the bishops do take care that obedience be paid to the same accordingly.

F. VERNON.

For the loyalty of the city of London, it should not be omitted to state, that as a corporate body they took the lead in congratulating his majesty on his accession to the throne, and offering him their condolence on the demise of his illustrious grandfather. On the 30th, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council proceeded in great state to court, where being admitted to the presence of the sovereign, the following address was delivered:

Most gracious sovereign,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, in common-council assembled, most humbly approach your royal presence, to condole with your majesty on the unexpected and affecting loss which your majesty and the nation have sustained, by the death of your illustrious grandfather,

11—12.

whose gentle and equal rule will be gratefully remembered by the present age, and whose wise and prosperous reign will be honoured by succeeding generations.

So sudden and momentous an event, in this very critical juncture, would, indeed, be severely felt by Great Britain, and her magnanimous ally, had not the goodness of Almighty God placed her sceptre in the hands of a prince, who, by his first declaration in council, has most graciously confirmed all the pleasing hopes which had been early entertained of his virtue, wisdom, and fortitude, as well as of his tender affection to this, his native country, and regard for her most excellent constitution, both in church and state.

It is, therefore, with the sincerest and warmest love and veneration, that we congratulate your majesty's most happy accession to the government of a free, loyal, and united people.

And, although we are sensible how painful it must be to your majesty, to find your kingdoms engaged in a bloody and expensive war, we doubt not but your majesty, jealous of the honour of your crown, and attentive to the rights and commercial interests of your people, will stedfastly pursue the wisdom and spirit of those councils, by which that war hath hitherto been so successfully conducted, until your majesty shall be enabled, by the Divine assistance, the tried and well-regulated ardour of your fleets and armies, and the inexhaustible affection of all your subjects, to establish peace upon a just, honourable, and solid foundation.

May your majesty graciously accept this earnest of our duty and inviolable attachment to your sacred person and government, and our humble assurances, that as it will be our constant prayer to the great Ruler of princes, that your majesty's reign may long continue over us, so it shall be always our study and endeavour, by every act of zeal, gratitude, and obedience, to render it happy and glorious to your majesty.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return this most gracious answer:

I take very kindly your early and warm assurances of affection for my person and government, and I give you my cordial thanks.

Firmness of councils, supported by such generous efforts of a free and united people, and seconded by such intrepidity and conduct, in my fleets and armies,

will, I trust, under the blessing of the Almighty, lead my kingdoms, in conjunction with my faithful allies, to a just, honourable, and lasting peace. My good city of London shall ever experience my watchful care for its liberties, commerce, and happiness.

They then waited on her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales; and sir William Moreton, *knt.* the recorder, made their compliments in the following speech:

May it please your royal highness,

We, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common-council assembled, humbly beg leave to present to your royal highness, our most respectful compliments of condolence, on the death of our late most gracious sovereign; and at the same time to congratulate your royal highness, upon your illustrious son's most happy accession to the crown of these realms, amidst the joyful acclamations of his faithful subjects.

To your royal highness's wise and tender care of his majesty's early years, we stand indebted for the cultivation of the innate virtues of his princely mind, and for the foundation of all those blessings which we trust to enjoy under his auspicious reign.

Long may your royal highness taste the maternal satisfaction of seeing the royal object of your affection and solicitude, the darling of this his native country, the protector of our trade, the defender of our religion, laws, and liberties, and the ornament and delight of human kind.

To which her royal highness was pleased to return the following answer:

My lord and gentlemen,

I return you my hearty thanks for this fresh mark of your attention to me. My warmest wishes have ever attended this great city; and the joy and happiness of my life will consist in the king, my son, exceeding in every thing your most sanguine expectations.

When we contemplate the perplexities attendant on a crown, we may reasonably conclude that no wise man will envy him that wears it; but of all countries, England is that

which demands a peculiar frame of mind in the possessor of the throne.

It concerns indeed every monarch, and every one that is to be a monarch, to make it the first of his duties to meet the public eye with a consciousness, that it can discover in him nothing essentially defective, and deserving of serious reproach.

A king cannot fly for shelter to obscurity; however he may strive to cover himself with the shield of dread and despotism, or to seek silence and privacy, enough of him will be seen and known to afford an idea of his character. But if this be true of princes armed with arbitrary sway, it applies much more forcibly to a sovereign of this country; he lives not only for the public, but in the midst of the public. Nothing that he says, any more than what he does, can remain concealed. His thoughts are not his own; however he may endeavour to keep them locked up in his bosom, the prying eye of those who surround him, will watch every avenue through which they may pierce into that recess, and it is not in the power of a human being to stand perpetually on his guard.

Is this an enviable condition? Nothing but the prospect of acting, so as to preserve his character unsullied, can possibly reconcile an upright man to so anxious a charge. Nothing, therefore, should more profoundly occupy the thoughts of a prince, whose destiny calls him to a throne, than the care to learn and the determination faithfully to perform, the duties of the arduous function imposed upon him.

The discharge of those duties appears an easy task only to such as are unworthy of it. Whoever unfeignedly feels for the honour and welfare of the country which he is born to govern, will view his own situation with an eye of diffidence and modesty; at the same time, his heart will glow with a salutary warmth for its

interest, and his mind will incessantly be employed in searching the means to advance it.

We have been excited to these reflections by a review of one of the first acts of his majesty on his accession to the throne, which was a proclamation ordered by him to be issued against vice and immorality. This memorable proclamation was intended to encourage the religion and virtue of his people, and to discourage vice and every species of profligacy. The king was by no means ignorant of the laxity of morals, which pervaded all classes of the community, and of the total disregard of, and inattention to the performance of every religious duty. He was conscious that in order to render a people prosperous and happy, the first object of its governors should be, not only to shew a proper attention to the preservation of their moral nature, but also that it becomes duty incumbent upon themselves, to check the growing influence of irreligion and immorality, by the powerful force of example. It is in the power of a king to call forth a love of virtue amongst his subjects, by manifesting it in himself. The welfare of a state demands that its moral, religious, and civil institutions of every kind should be held sacred, and guarded with a dragon's care, from every species of innovation or subversion; and well is it for that country where the monarch himself not only pays due reverence to those institutions, but from the throne calls upon the people to follow his example.

The following is the proclamation alluded to :

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION for the encouragement of piety and virtue, and for preventing and punishing of vice, profaneness, and immorality.

GEORGE R.

We most seriously and religiously considering, that it is an indispensable duty on us to be careful above all

other things, to preserve and advance the honour and service of Almighty God, and to discourage and suppress all vice, profaneness, debauchery, and immorality, which are so highly displeasing to God, so great a reproach to our religion and government, and (by means of the frequent ill examples of the practices thereof) have so fatal a tendency to the corruption of many of our loving subjects, otherwise religiously and virtuously disposed, and which (if not timely remedied) may justly draw down the Divine vengeance on us and our kingdoms: we also humbly acknowledging, that we cannot expect the blessing and goodness of Almighty God (by whom kings reign, and on which we entirely rely) to make our reign happy and prosperous to ourself and to our people, without a religious observance of God's holy laws: to the intent thereof that religion, piety, and good manners may (according to our most hearty desire) flourish and increase under our administration and government, we have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to issue this our royal proclamation, and do hereby declare our royal purpose and resolution to discountenance and punish all manner of vice, profaneness, and immorality, in all persons of whatsoever degree or quality, within this our realm, and particularly in such as are employed near our royal person; and that for the encouragement of religion and morality, we will, upon all occasions, distinguish persons of piety and virtue, by marks of our royal favour. And we do expect and require that all persons of honour, or in place of authority, will give good example by their own virtue and piety, and to their utmost contribute to the discountenancing persons of dissolute and debauched lives, that they, being reduced by that means to shame and contempt, for their loose and evil actions and behaviour, may be therefore also enforced the sooner to reform their ill habits and practices, and that the visible displeasure of good men towards them may (as far as it is possible) supply what the laws (probably) cannot altogether prevent. And we do hereby strictly enjoin and prohibit all our loving subjects of what degree or quality soever, from playing on the Lord's-day at dice, cards, or any other game whatever, either in public or private houses, or other places whatsoever; and we do hereby require and command them, and every of them, decently and reverently to attend the worship of God on every Lord's-day, on pain of our highest displeasure, and being proceeded against

with the utmost rigour that may be by law. And for the more effectual reforming all such persons, who by reason of their dissolute lives and conversations are a scandal to our kingdom; our further pleasure is, and we do hereby strictly charge and command all our judges, mayors, sheriffs, justices of the peace, and all other our officers and ministers, both ecclesiastical and civil, and all other our subjects, whom it may concern, to be very vigilant, and strict in the discovery, and the effectual prosecution and punishment of all persons who shall be guilty of excessive drinking, blasphemy, profane swearing and cursing, lewdness, profanation of the Lord's-day, or other dissolute, immoral, or disorderly practices: and that they take care also effectually to suppress all public gaming-houses and places, and other lewd and disorderly houses, and to put in execution the statute made in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of the late king Charles the Second, intituled, "An act for the better observation of the Lord's-day, commonly called Sunday:" and also an act of parliament made in the ninth year of the reign of the late king William the Third, intituled, "An act for the more effectual suppressing of blasphemy and profaneness;" and all other laws now in force for the punishing and suppressing any of the vices aforesaid; and also to suppress and prevent all gaming whatsoever in public or private houses, on the Lord's-day; and likewise, that they take effectual care to prevent all persons keeping taverns, chocolate-houses, coffee-houses, or other public houses whatsoever, from selling wines, chocolate, coffee, ale, beer, or other liquors, or receiving or permitting guests to be or remain in such their houses in the time of divine service on the Lord's-day, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon pain of our highest displeasure. And for the more effectual proceeding herein, we do hereby direct and command all our judges of assizes and justices of the peace, to give strict charges at their respective assizes and sessions, for the due prosecution and punishment of all persons that shall presume to offend in any of the kinds aforesaid, and also of all persons, that, contrary to their duty shall be remiss or negligent in putting the laws in execution; and that they do, at their respective assizes and quarter sessions of the peace, cause this our royal proclamation to be publicly read in open court immediately before the charge is given. And we do hereby further charge and command every minister in his respec-

tive parish-church or chapel, to read, or cause to be read, this our proclamation, at least four times in every year, immediately after divine service, and to incite and stir up their respective auditors to the practice of piety and virtue, and the avoiding of all immorality and profaneness. And to the end that all vice and debauchery may be prevented, and religion and virtue practised by all officers, private soldiers, mariners, and others, who are employed in our service by sea and land, we do hereby strictly charge and command all our commanders and officers whatsoever, that they do take care to avoid all profaneness, debauchery, and other immoralities, and that by their own good and virtuous lives and conversations, they do set good examples to all such as are under their care and authority; and likewise take care of and inspect the behaviour of all such as are under them, and punish all those who shall be guilty of any offences aforesaid, as they will be answerable for the ill consequences of their neglect herein.

Given at our court at Leicester-house, the 31st day of October, 1760, and in the first year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

A proclamation was also issued, requiring all persons who were in office of authority or government at the decease of the late king, to proceed in the execution of their respective offices, and to take the oaths to his present majesty as soon as convenient.

A few days after the accession of his majesty, he received the following letter from the venerable bishop of London, the simple and unaffected sentiments of which made a deep impression upon the feelings of his majesty.

Copy of a Letter from the Bishop of London to the King.

Sire,

Nov. 1, 1760.

Amidst the congratulations that surround the throne, permit me to lay before your majesty a heart, which, though oppressed with age and infirmity, is no stranger to the joys of my country.

When the melancholy news of the late king's demise reached us, it naturally led us to consider the loss we had sustained, and upon what our hopes of futurity depended. The first part excited grief, and put all the

tender passions into motion ; but the second brought life and spirit with it, and wiped away the tears from every face.

Oh ! how graciously did the providence of God provide a successor, able to bear the weight of government in that unexpected event.

You, Sir, are the person whom the people ardently desire ; which affection of theirs is happily returned, by your majesty's declared concern for their prosperity ; and let nothing disturb this mutual consent. Let there be but one contest between them, whether the king loves the people best, or the people him : and may it be a long, a very long contest, may it never be decided, but let it remain doubtful ; and may the paternal affection on the one side, and the filial obedience on the other, be had in perpetual remembrance.

This will probably be the last time I shall ever trouble your majesty. I beg leave to express my warmest wishes and prayers on your behalf. May the God of heaven and earth have you always under his protection, and direct you to seek his honour and glory in all you do ; and may you reap the benefit of it, by an increase of happiness in this world, and in the next.

As a proof that his majesty disliked all fulsome adulation, and particularly that high strain of panegyric which characterized the discourses of those divines, who were appointed to preach before him, his majesty shortly after his accession to the throne, issued an order, prohibiting any of the clergy who should be called to preach before him, from paying him any compliment in their discourses. This order was occasioned by three clergymen; the Rev. Messrs. Nichols, Potter, and T. Wilson, prebendary of Westminster, preaching one after the other in the Chapel Royal, and eulogizing his majesty in the most fulsome terms, for which they expected to receive, if not preferment, at least the thanks of the royal auditor ; but in this they were most egregiously mistaken, for his majesty, through lord Mansfield, expressed his severe displeasure, saying, that " he came to chapel to hear the praises of God and not his own."

It must however appear singular to those, who are acquainted with the strict attention which his majesty paid to the observance of the duties of the sabbath, that at the time of his accession to the throne, it was the custom at court to hold the drawing-rooms on a Sunday. Thus on the 2d of November, eight days after his accession, he attended divine service at the royal chapel, St. James's, and immediately after held a drawing-room at St. James's palace, and an order was the same day issued, that the drawing-rooms would be held in future every Thursday and Sunday. It must also be remarked, notwithstanding the clamour which is raised of the degenerate state of the moral world at this period, especially in the exalted stations of life, that in whatever concerns the forms and ceremonies of the court, at no epoch of our history, was a greater degree of propriety and decorum manifested than at present. Court drawing-rooms are considered as the highest assemblage of the nobility and the fashionable world, and may, in some respects, be regarded as splendid galas. The first drawing-room of George III., was held on the 2d of November, the very day on which the mourning for his grandfather commenced ; the second was held on the Thursday following and the third on the Sunday ; thus making three drawing-rooms before the interment of George II., which did not take place till the 11th. It is true that his present majesty, George IV. held a court immediately on the demise of his royal parent, but it was a matter of state necessity, the laws of the country requiring it ; but the same cause could not be ascribed to the drawing-rooms of George III., which were usually held on days on which he had previously attended divine worship. These circumstances are, however, merely mentioned as indicative of the change of manners, and corroborative of the fact that we have not degenerated from our

forefathers in our strict attention to the religious duties of the sabbath.

On the 9th of November, about eight o'clock, the bowels of the deceased king were privately interred in king Henry VII's chapel. A party of horse guards preceded, who were followed by the lord chamberlain, bearing his staff of office, and other noblemen in two mourning coaches, with three footmen behind each with flambeaux. A second party of horse-guards followed; after which came immediately another mourning coach and six, upon the front seat of which were two noblemen, and on the back seat lay a box rather long, covered with purple velvet and gold nails, to which were fixed four golden handles. The noblemen who attended having alighted, eight yeomen of the guard, who waited at the abbey door to receive the bowels, put a napkin through each handle, which was supported by two of them; and the box was thus carried into the chapel, preceded by the above noblemen, through the abbey, in which were posted a party of the foot-guards; and the box was deposited in the royal vault, the trumpets sounding a dead march during the whole ceremony.

On the 10th, the royal corpse was conveyed from Kensington palace to the prince's chamber near the house of lords, and on the subsequent day it was interred according to the following ceremonies:

The right honourable the earl of Rochford's coach, with six horses, several servants behind in livery, with lighted torches.

The hon. Mr. Finch's coach, with two horses, one servant behind, in livery, with a torch.

His grace the duke of Devonshire's chariot, with six horses, several servants behind, in livery, with torches.

Two horse grenadiers, their swords drawn.

Two of the royal coaches, in mourning, with six horses each, the servants behind in mourning, with torches.

A large party of horse grenadiers.

A royal coach in mourning, with six horses, the servants behind in mourning, with torches.

The royal hearse, covered with purple velvet, finely ornamented with carved work. The royal arms being at the upper part on each side, and adorned at the top with several crowns. It was drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, with large purple velvet trappings, and followed by the royal trumpeters in their rich habits, sounding a dead march, and a large party of the life-guards.

The procession was closed by one of the royal coaches out of mourning, with the blinds up, drawn by two horses, and one servant behind, in a royal livery frock, with a torch.

On each side of all the royal carriages, except the last, a train of men walked in black cloaks, with lighted torches in their hands.

At about a quarter past nine o'clock the procession entered the Green-park, from Hyde-park, and passed slowly on through the Horse-guards to the grand entrance into the house of lords, where the royal corpse was taken out and carried up to the chamber, where it lay in state. The concourse of people was very great on this solemn occasion.

The following inscription, in Latin, was put upon his majesty's coffin:

*Depositum
Serenissimi, Potentissimi,
et Excellentissimi Monarchæ
GEORGII SECUNDI,
Dei Gratia;
Magna Britannia, Francia, et Hibernia Regis,
Fidei defensoris;
Ducis et Brunsvici et Lunenburgi,
Sacri Romani Imperii Archi-thesaurarii
& Principis Electoris.
Obiit 25 Die Octobris, Anno Do-
mini 1760, Ætatis suæ 77.
Regniq. sui 34.*

[Translated.]

Here lie deposited

The remains of the most Serene,
most Mighty, and most
Excellent Monarch,

GEORGE the SECOND,

By the Grace of God,
King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith;
Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg,
Arch-treasurer and Prince Elector of the
Holy Roman empire.

He died the 25th day of October,
in the Year of our Lord 1760,
in the 77th Year of his Age,
and in the 34th Year of his Reign.

The day following, Tuesday the 11th, about nine o'clock, the royal corpse was carried from the prince's chamber to Westminster-abbey, and interred in the royal vault in Henry the VIIth's chapel. The procession was very grand and solemn, according to the ceremonial following:

His royal highness the duke of Cumberland was chief mourner, and his train was borne by the dukes of Newcastle and Bridgewater. Minute guns were fired at the Tower and Park, and the bells in every parish tolled during the whole ceremony. Two thousand foot-guards, and 250 horse lined the scaffold, and kept off the mob.

There was so many thousands of spectators, that great numbers could not get near enough to see the procession, and only saw at a distance the great light given by the flambeaux and lamps.

Knight-marshal's men with black staves, two and two

Pages of the presence
Pages of the back stairs
Pages of the bed-chamber
Yeomen of the robes
Gentlemen ushers, quarter waiters
Pages of honour
Grooms of the privy chamber
Gentlemen ushers assistants
Gentlemen ushers daily waiters
Physicians to the king
Deputy clerks of the closet

Equerries to his late majesty

Clerks comptrollers and clerks of the green cloth

The master of the king's household

Gentlemen ushers of the privy chamber

King's counsel King's serjeant

King's solicitor King's attorney

Prime serjeant

Barons' younger sons

Viscounts' younger sons

Barons of the exchequer, and justices of both benches, according to their seniority

Lord chief baron Lord chief justice of common pleas
went as a privy-councillor.

Master of the rolls Lord chief justice of the king's
went as privy-councillor bench, being a peer, walked
as such

Bath king at arms

Knights of the Bath not lords nor privy-councillors

Privy-councillors not peers of the realm

Barons' eldest sons

Earls' youngest sons

Viscounts' eldest sons

The comptroller of the king's household The treasurer of the king's
household

with their staves, and being peers, walked as such

Two pursuivants

Barons of Ireland

Barons of Great Britain

Bishops in their rochets

Marquises' younger sons

Earls' eldest sons

A pursuivant

Viscounts of Ireland

Viscounts of Great Britain

Dukes' younger sons

Marquises' eldest sons

One herald of arms

Earls of Ireland

Earls of Great Britain

Earl of Effingham as exercising the office of earl marshal
of England

Dukes' eldest sons

One herald of arms

Marquises

One herald of arms

Dukes

One herald of arms

Dukes having great offices

Lord privy-seal

Lord president of the council

Lord-archbishop of York (no train borne)

Lord keeper bearing the purse, (no train borne nor mace carried)

Lord archbishop of Canterbury (no train borne)

Norroy king of arms

Master of the horse

Second gentleman usher in waiting.	{	Clarencieux king of arms carrying the crown on a purple velvet cushion	{	First gentleman usher in waiting.
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Lord Chamberlain of the household with his white staff.

Supporters of the pall, three dukes

The canopy borne by gentlemen of the privy chamber

Ten gentlemen pensioners with their axes reversed

The
ROYAL BODY,
carried by twelve yeomen of the guard, covered with a large pall of purple velvet, lined with purple silk, and with a fine Holland sheet, adorned with ten large escutcheons of the imperial arms painted on satin, under a canopy of purple velvet.

Supporters of the pall, three dukes

The canopy borne by gentlemen of the privy chamber

Ten gentlemen pensioners with their axes reversed

Gentleman usher	{	Garter principal king of arms	{	Gentleman usher of the black rod, the rod reversed
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Supporter to the chief mourner, a duke	{	The chief mourner, His train borne by two dukes, assisted by the vice-chamberlain	{	Supporter to the chief mourner, a duke
--	---	---	---	--

Two dukes and fourteen earls, assistants to the chief mourner

First gentleman usher of the privy-chamber

Groom of the stole

Lords of the bed-chamber

Second gentleman usher of the privy-chamber

The master of the robes

The grooms of the bed-chamber

The remaining part of the band of gentlemen pensioners with their axes reversed

Yeomen of the guard to close the ceremony.

The procession went from the prince's chamber through the Old Palace-yard, on foot, to the great north-door of the abbey; and the

way was railed in on both sides, and floored twenty feet wide, and was covered with an awning, with black baize on the floor, and under the awning; and the whole way to the abbey, and in the abbey, to the steps leading to king Henry the VIIth's chapel, was lined on each side with foot guards.

The procession having entered the church, passed along down to the end of the north aisle, and then crossed to the south aisle, and from thence to the said steps, and there fell off on each side, until the judges, the knights of the bath, the privy-councillors, the peers, the body, and chief mourners, &c., were placed in king Henry the VIIth's chapel.

At the entrance within the church, the dean and prebendaries in their copes, attended by the choir, all having wax tapers in their hands, received the royal body, and fell into the procession just before Clarencieux king of arms, and so proceeded singing into king Henry the VIIth's chapel, where the body was deposited on tressels, (the crown and cushion being laid at the head) and the canopy held over it by the gentlemen of the privy chamber, while the service, according to the liturgy of the church of England, was read by the bishop of Rochester, dean of Westminster; and the chief mourner, and his two supporters, were seated on chairs placed for them at the head of the corpse; and the lords assistants seated on stools on each side; and the lords of the bed-chamber, &c., were seated; and the peers and others took their seats in the stalls on each side of the choir.

When the part of the service before the interment was read, the royal corpse was carried to the vault, preceded by the lord chamberlain of the household, the chief mourner, his supporters and assistants following, Garter going before them, and the white-staff officers of his

late majesty's household, who placed themselves near the vault.

The royal corpse being interred, the dean of Westminster went on with the office of burial, which ended, and an anthem sung in the choir, Garter, king of arms proclaimed his late majesty's style as followeth:

Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life unto his Divine mercy, the late most high, most mighty, and most excellent monarch, George II, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, and sovereign of the most noble order of the garter, duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, arch-treasurer and elector of the holy Roman empire.

Let us beseech Almighty God to bless and preserve, with long life, health, and honour, and all worldly happiness the most high and most excellent monarch, our sovereign lord George III, now, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, and sovereign of the most noble order of the garter, duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, arch-treasurer and elector of the holy Roman empire.—God save king George the Third.

The following anthem, composed by Dr. William Boyce, master of his majesty's band of musicians, was performed at the funeral.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

In the sight of the unwise, they seem to die, but they are in peace.

For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.

The hope of the ungodly is like the smoke driven with the wind, and passeth away like a shadow.

But the righteous live for evermore.

Now they are numbered among the saints, and their lot is among the children of men.

They shall receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand.

As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as burnt-offerings.

They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their lord shall reign for ever.

They shall be our guide unto death.

We subjoin some interesting passages from Horace Walpole's letters. They are written in parts, with a levity somewhat discordant with the sorrow then so justly felt by all parties; but they contain also so much that is honourable to the character of our late revered monarch, that we cannot refrain from inserting them.

Arlington-street, Nov. 4, 1760.

I am not gone to Houghton, you see: my lord Orford is come to town, and I have persuaded him to stay and perform decencies.

King George II. is dead; richer than sir Robert Brown, though perhaps not so rich as my lord Hardwicke*. He has left 50,000*l.* between the duke, Emily, and Mary: the duke has given up his share. To lady Yarmouth, a cabinet with the contents; they call it 11,000*l.* By a German deed, he gives the duke, to the value of 180,000*l.*, placed on mortgages not immediately recoverable! He had once given him twice as much more, then revoked it, and at last excused the revocation on the pretence of the expenses of the war; but owns he was the best son that ever lived, and had never offended him—a pretty strong comment on the affair of Closterseven. He gives him besides all his jewels in England, but had removed all his best to Hanover, which he makes crown-jewels, and his successor residuary legatee.

* George II. was considered to die immensely rich, but it is certain that his property did not amount to that sum which was currently reported at the time. Indeed it was not generally known, that he employed his surplus money in the purchase of lands and the aggrandizement of the electorate of Hanover. At his accession, the revenue of Hanover did not exceed 300,000*l.*, but it was increased by the purchase of Bremen and Verden by the king for rather more than 500,000*l.*; he also bought in for above 100,000*l.* the revenue of the postage of the electorate, which was an hereditary grant to the counts of Platen: He also paid 30,000*l.* for the fortress and estate of Steinhorst; and it was computed that he expended above a million sterling on the purchase of other lands in his favourite electorate.

The duke too has some uncounted cabinets. My lady Suffolk has given me a particular of his jewels, which plainly amount to 150,000*l*. It happened oddly to my lady Suffolk. Two days before he died, she went to make a visit at Kensington; not knowing of the review, she found herself hemmed-in by coaches, and was close to him whom she had not seen for so many years, and to my lady Yarmouth, but they did not know her; it struck her and made her very sensible to his death.

The changes hang back. Nothing material has been altered yet. Ned Finch, the only thing my lady Yarmouth told the new king she had to ask for, is made surveyor of the roads, in the room of sir Harry Erskine, who is to have an old regiment. He excuses himself from seeing company, as favourite of the favourite. Arthur is removed from being clerk of the wine-cellar—a sacrifice to morality. The archbishop has such hopes of the young king, that he is never out of the circle! He trode upon the duke's foot, on Sunday, in the haste of his zeal. The duke said to him, "My lord, if your grace is in such a hurry to make your court, that is the way." Bon-mots come thicker than changes. Charles Townshend, receiving an account of the impression the king's death had made, was told, Miss Cudleigh cried. "What," said he, "Oysters?" And last night, Mr. Dauncey, asking George Selwyn if princess Emily would have a guard? He replied, "Now and then one, I suppose."

Arlington-street, Nov. 13, 1760.

Even the honey-moon of a new reign don't produce events every day. There is nothing but the common saying of addresses and kissing hands. The chief difficulty is settled: lord Gower yields the mastership of the horse to lord Huntingdon, and removes to the great wardrobe, from whence sir Thomas Robinson was to have gone into Ellis's place, but he is saved. The city, however, have a mind to be out of humour; a paper has been fixed on the Royal Exchange, with these words:—"No petticoat government, no Scotch minister, no lord George Sackville;" two hints totally unfounded, and the other scarce true. No petticoat ever governed less; it is left at Leicester-house: lord George's breeches are as little concerned; and except lady Susan Stuart and sir Harry Erskine, nothing has yet been done for any Scots. For the king himself, he seems all good nature, and wishing to satisfy every body; all his speeches are obliging. I saw

him again yesterday, and was surprised to find the levee-room had lost so entirely the air of the lion's den. This sovereign don't stand in one spot, with his eyes fixed royally on the ground, and dropping bits of German news; he walks about, and speaks to every body. I saw him afterwards on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel, sits with dignity, and reads his answers to addresses well; it was the Cambridge address carried by the duke of Newcastle in his doctor's gown, and looking like the *Medecin malgré lui*. He had been vehemently solicitous for attendance, for fear my lord Westmorland, who vouchsafes himself to bring the address from Oxford, should outnumber him. Lord Lichfield, and several other jacobites, have kissed hands. George Selwyn says, "They go to St. James's, because now there are so many Stuarts there."

Do you know, I had the curiosity to go to the burying to other night: I had never seen a royal funeral; nay, I walked as a rag of quality, which I found would be, and so it was, the easiest way of seeing it. It is absolutely a noble sight. The prince's chamber, hung with purple, and a quantity of silver lamps; the coffin under a canopy of purple velvet, and six vast chandeliers of silver on high stands, had a very good effect. The ambassador from Tripoli and his son were carried to see that chamber. The procession, through a line of foot-guards, every seventh man bearing a torch; the horse-guards lining the outsides, their officers with drawn sabres, and crape sashes, on horseback, the drums muffled, the fifes, bells tolling, and minute guns—all this was very solemn. But the charm was the entrance of the Abbey, where we were received by the dean and chapter, in rich robes, the choir and alms-men bearing torches; the whole Abbey so illuminated, that one saw it to greater advantage than by day; the tombs, long aisles, and fretted roof, all appearing distinctly, and with the happiest *chiaro oscuro*. There wanted nothing but incense and little chapels here and there, with priests saying mass for the repose of the defunct; yet one could not complain of its not being catholic enough. I had been in dread of being coupled with some boy of ten years old; but the heralds were not very accurate, and I walked with George Grenville, taller and older, to keep me in countenance. When we came to the chapel of Henry VII., all solemnity and decorum ceased—no order was observed; people sat or stood where they could or would; the yeomen of the

guard were crying out for help, oppressed by the immense weight of the coffin. The bishop read sadly, and blundered in the prayers: the fine chapter, "Man that is born of a woman," was chanted, not read; and the anthem, besides being immeasurably tedious, would have served as well for a nuptial. The real serious part was the figure of the duke of Cumberland, heightened by a thousand melancholy circumstances. He had a dark-brown adonis, and a cloak of black cloth, with a train of five yards. Attending the funeral of a father could not be pleasant; his leg extremely bad, yet forced to stand upon it near two hours; his face bloated and distorted with his late paralytic stroke, which has affected too one of his eyes; and placed over the mouth of the vault, into which, in all probability, he must himself so soon descend—think how unpleasant a situation! He bore it all with a firm and unaffected countenance. This grave scene was fully contrasted by the burlesque duke of Newcastle. He fell into a fit of crying the moment he came into the chapel, and flung himself back in a stall, the archbishop hovering over him with a smelling-bottle; but in two minutes his curiosity got the better of his hypocrisy, and he ran about the chapel with his glass, to spy who was or was not there, spying with one hand and mopping his eyes with the other. Then returned the fear of catching cold; and the duke of Cumberland, who was sinking with heat, felt himself weighed down, and turning round, found it was the duke of Newcastle standing upon his train to avoid the chill of the marble. It was very theatric to look down into the vault where the coffins lay, attended by mourners with lights. Clavering, the groom of the bed-chamber, refused to sit up with the body, and was dismissed by the king's order.

I have nothing more to tell you but a trifle, a very trifle. The king of Prussia has totally defeated marshal Dann. This, which would have been prodigious news a month ago, is nothing to-day; it only takes its turn among the questions, "Who is to be groom of the bed-chamber? What is Sir Thomas Robinson to have?" I have been to Leicester-fields to-day; the crowd was immoderate; I don't believe it will continue so. Good night.

Yours ever,

HORACE WALPOLE.

Strawberry-hill, Monday, Nov. 24, 1760.

Unless I were to send you journals, lists, catalogues, computations of the bodies, tides, swarms of people that

go to court to present addresses, or to be presented, I can tell you nothing new. The day the king went to the house I was three quarters of an hour getting through Whitehall: there were subjects enough to set up half a dozen petty kings; the pretender would be proud to reign over the footmen only; and, indeed, unless he acquires some of them, he will have no subjects left; all their masters flock to St. James's; and the palace is so thronged that I will stay till some people are discontented. The first night the king went to the play, which was civilly on a Friday, not on the opera night, as he used to do, the whole audience sung "God save the King," in chorus. For the first act the press was so great at the door, that no ladies could go to the boxes, and only the servants appeared there, who kept places; at the end of the second act the whole mob broke in, and seated themselves: yet all this zeal is not likely to last, though he so well deserves it. Seditious papers are again stuck up; one t' other day in Westminster-hall declared against a Saxe-Gothan princess. The archbishop, who is never out of the drawing-room, has great hopes from the king's goodness, that he shall make something of him—that is, something bad of him. On the address, Pitt and his zany Beckford quarrelled, on the latter's calling the campaign languid. * * * * This is a very brief letter; I fear this reign will soon furnish longer. When the last king could be beloved, a young man with a good heart has little chance of being so. Moreover, I have a maxim, that *the extinction of party is the origin of faction.* Good night.

Yours ever,

HORACE WALPOLE.

The cost of the wax-lights, lamps, and torches used in Westminster-hall, the Abbey, and the exterior scaffolding at the funeral, amounted to a thousand pounds, and the whole expense thereof exceeded 50,000*l.* Upwards of two hundred performers vocal and instrumental attended.

The attention of the country was now directed to the meeting of parliament, which, after a short prorogation, assembled on the 18th. All parties were on the alert, eager to ascertain the line of politics which his majesty would adopt,

and whether the sentiments of his first speech breathed a desire to continue the war, or to bring it to a speedy conclusion.

His majesty went to the house of peers, attended in the state coach by the earl of Huntingdon, master of the horse, and the earl of Bute, groom of the stole. The concourse of people, of all descriptions, was unprecedented; and it was generally remarked, that on no similar occasion had the crowd been so great, nor did the people ever appear so unanimous in testifying their applause. His majesty was pleased to express his satisfaction, both in his countenance and behaviour, by bowing from each window several times as he passed along. Her royal highness the princess of Wales, with the greater part of the royal family, were in the octagon-room, at Carlton-house, which looks into the park, to see his majesty.

Being seated on the throne, his majesty, under evident symptoms of embarrassment, but which he overcome in a short time, delivered the following memorable speech; a speech which should ever be regarded by Englishmen, not only on account of the excellence of its sentiments, but what is of still greater import, as exhibiting a faithful picture of the corresponding conduct of him who delivered it.

My lords and gentlemen,

The just concern which I have felt in my own breast on the sudden death of the late king, my royal grandfather, makes me not doubt, but you must all have been deeply affected with so severe a loss. The present critical and difficult conjuncture has made this loss the more sensible, as he was the great support of that system, by which alone the liberties of Europe, and the weight and influence of these kingdoms can be preserved, and gave life to measures conducive to those important ends.

I need not tell you the addition of weight which immediately falls upon me, in being called to the government of this free and powerful country at such a time, and under such circumstances. My consolation is in the uprightness of my own intentions, your faithful and united

assistance, and the blessing of Heaven upon our joint endeavours, which I devoutly implore.

Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton; and the peculiar happiness of my life will ever consist in promoting the welfare of a people, whose loyalty and warm affection to me, I consider as the greatest and most permanent security of my throne; and I doubt not, but their steadiness in those principles will equal the firmness of my invariable resolution to adhere to, and strengthen this excellent constitution in church and state, and to maintain the toleration inviolable. The civil and religious rights of my loving subjects are equally dear to me with the most valuable prerogatives of my crown; and as the surest foundation of the whole, and the best means to draw down the Divine favour on my reign, it is my fixed purpose to countenance and encourage the practice of true religion and virtue.

I reflect, with pleasure, on the successes, with which the British arms have been prospered this last summer. The total reduction of the vast province of Canada, with the city of Montreal, is of the most interesting consequence, and must be as heavy a blow to my enemies, as it is a conquest glorious to us; the more glorious, because effected almost without effusion of blood, and with that humanity which makes an amiable part of the character of this nation.

Our advantages gained in the East Indies have been signal; and must greatly diminish the strength and trade of France in those parts, as well as procure the most solid benefits to the commerce and wealth of my subjects.

In Germany, where the whole French force has been employed, the combined army under the wise and able conduct of my general, prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, has not only stopt their progress, but has gained advantages over them, notwithstanding their boasted superiority, and their not having hitherto come to a general engagement.

My good brother and ally, the king of Prussia, although surrounded with numerous armies of enemies, has, with a magnanimity and perseverance almost beyond example, not only withstood their various attacks, but has obtained very considerable victories over them.

Of these events I shall say no more at this time, because the nature of the war in those parts has kept the campaign there still depending.

As my navy is the principal article of our national strength, it gives me much satisfaction to receive it in such good condition; whilst the fleet of France is weakened to such a degree, that the small remains of it have continued blocked up by my ships in their own ports; at the same time, the French trade is reduced to the lowest ebb; and with joy of heart I see the commerce of my kingdoms, that great source of our riches, and fixed object of my never-failing care and protection, flourishing to an extent unknown in any former war.

The valour and intrepidity of my officers and forces, both at sea and land; have been distinguished so much to the glory of this nation, that I should be wanting in justice to them, if I did not acknowledge it. This is a merit which I shall constantly encourage and reward; and I take this occasion to declare, that the zealous and useful service of the militia, in the present arduous conjuncture is very acceptable to me.

In this state I have found things at my accession to the throne of my ancestors; happy, in viewing the prosperous part of it; happier still should I have been, had I found my kingdoms, whose true interest I have entirely at heart, in full peace: but since the ambition, injurious encroachments, and dangerous designs of my enemies, rendered the war both just and necessary, and the generous overture, made last winter, towards a congress for a pacification, has not yet produced any suitable return, I am determined, with your cheerful and powerful assistance, to prosecute this war with vigour, in order to that desirable object, a safe and honourable peace. For this purpose, it is absolutely incumbent upon us to be early prepared; and I rely upon your zeal and hearty concurrence to support the king of Prussia, and the rest of my allies, and to make ample provision for carrying on the war, as the only means to bring our enemies to equitable terms of accommodation.

Gentlemen of the house of commons,

The greatest uneasiness which I feel at this time, is in considering the uncommon burdens, necessarily brought upon my faithful subjects. I desire only such supplies as shall be requisite to prosecute the war with advantage, be adequate to the necessary services; and that they may be provided for in the most sure and effectual manner. You may depend upon the faithful and punctual application of what shall be granted. I have ordered the proper estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you:

and also an account of the extraordinary expenses, which from the nature of the different and remote operations, have been unavoidably incurred.

It is with peculiar reluctance that I am obliged, at such a time, to mention any thing which personally regards myself. But, as the grant of the greatest part of the civil list revenues is now determined, I trust in your duty and affection to me, to make the proper provision for supporting my civil government with honour and dignity. On my part, you may be assured of a regular and becoming economy.

My lords and gentlemen,

The eyes of all Europe are upon you. From your resolutions the Protestant interest hopes for protection, as well as all our friends for the preservation of their independency; and our enemies fear the final disappointment of their ambitious and destructive views. Let these hopes and fears be confirmed and augmented by the vigour, unanimity, and despatch of our proceedings.

In this expectation I am the more encouraged, by a pleasing circumstance, which I look upon as one of the most auspicious omens of my reign. That happy extinction of divisions, and that union and good harmony which continue to prevail amongst my subjects, afford me the most agreeable prospect. The natural disposition and wish of my heart are to cement and promote them; and I promise myself that nothing will arise on your part to interrupt or disturb a situation so essential to the true and lasting felicity of this great people.

This gracious speech of the sovereign was received with every demonstration of loyalty which it so justly merited, and both houses voted the address unanimously.

The following addresses of the lords and commons were presented to his majesty on the 19th.

The humble Address of the Right Hon. the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, November 18, 1760.

Most gracious sovereign,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, in parliament assembled, beg leave to return your majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

On this first occasion of approaching your royal person, permit us to express our unfeigned sorrow for the severe and afflicting loss, which not only this nation, but all Europe has sustained in the sudden death of our late excellent and most gracious sovereign, your majesty's illustrious grandfather. The long experience which we had of his royal virtues, the benignity of his government, and his uniform care of our laws and liberties, not interrupted in any one instance, during the course of so many years, demand from us the most grateful acknowledgments; and will make his memory as dear to us as the height and splendour to which he had raised the greatness of these kingdoms will render it glorious to all posterity.

Such a loss could only be repaired by your majesty. And at the same time that we condole with your majesty on this melancholy event, we beg leave to offer you our most sincere congratulations on your happy accession to the throne. As your majesty is the rightful and immediate inheritor of his crown, you are so of those virtues with which he adorned it; and which promise a continuation of the same blessings to these kingdoms. It fills our minds with inexpressible joy to see the pleasing hopes we had conceived from your many princely and amiable endowments, and the early demonstrations of your affection to this country, so fully verified in your first declarations to your parliament.

We are penetrated with the condescending and endearing manner in which your majesty has expressed your satisfaction in having received your birth and education amongst us. What a lustre doth it cast upon the name of Briton, when you, sir, are pleased to esteem it amongst your glories!

The several paternal assurances which your majesty has vouchsafed to give us, speak your resolution to be the common father of your people. No stronger proof can be given of it, than by adopting this undeniable maxim, that their love is the best security of your throne. From this principle will naturally flow the strictest adherence to our excellent constitution in church and state, and the maintenance of that surest cement of the Protestant interest in these kingdoms, the toleration: and we cannot but applaud your majesty's wisdom and piety in making the encouragement of true religion and virtue one of the great foundations of your government.

We adore the goodness of Providence in the signal successes with which we have been blessed this last summer. The reduction of the extensive province of Canada, with the city of Montreal, is an event of the highest importance in every view; and it is no small addition to the glory resulting from it, to have shown, that where the British arms carry conquest, they carry protection.

We look upon the great advantages gained in the East Indies, as highly beneficial to the trade of these kingdoms. And we have the justest sense of the happy consequences derived to the operations of Great Britain in particular, as well as to the common cause in general, from the wise conduct of prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. After what the enemy had before experienced from his abilities, we are not surprised that they should not come to a decisive engagement.

The magnanimity and perseverance of the king of Prussia will not only be the admiration of the present age, but of posterity; and the noble stand made, and the victories obtained by that prince, must be the strongest motives to the powers engaged against him, to concur in the proper measures to restore the tranquillity of Europe.

The judicious sentiments which your majesty has declared to us concerning your royal navy, and the commerce of your subjects, are truly worthy of a British monarch, resolved to improve our natural strength, and most valuable resources. The weakening of the French force by sea, to so great a degree, and the low state to which their trade is reduced, we esteem amongst the most solid benefits accruing to this nation from the expensive efforts made this war.

Your majesty's regard for public merit shines forth in the generous notice, which you are pleased to take, of the valour and intrepidity of your officers and forces by sea and land. They are equally conducive to the safety and glory of our country; and your gracious acceptance of the service of the militia, as being useful in the present arduous conjuncture, will be a great encouragement to their zeal.

At the same time that we thankfully acknowledge your majesty's tender consideration for your people, in your wishes to have found your kingdoms in full peace, we cannot but admire your wisdom in the comprehensive sense you have expressed of the causes and necessity of

the present war. We are convinced that your majesty's humane disposition makes you lament the calamities of it; whilst your greatness of mind has determined you to pursue it with vigour, in order to a safe and honourable peace, so desirable not only to your own subjects, but to all Europe. Animated by that duty which we owe your majesty, and by our zeal for the honour and interests of these kingdoms, we give your majesty the strongest assurances, that we will cheerfully support you in prosecuting the war; assist the king of Prussia, and the rest of your allies; and heartily concur in all such measures, as shall be necessary for the defence of your majesty and dominions, and for the other national and important ends which you have so fully laid before us.

The anxiety, which your majesty has so early declared, for the uncommon burdens of your people demands our sincerest thanks. Your tender concern will be an inducement to bear them the more cheerfully, and a pledge to your faithful subjects, that they shall be relieved from them as soon as the public security will, in sound policy, admit.

These many eminent proofs of your majesty's goodness, and of your fixed attention to our happiness, call upon us for the warmest returns of duty, gratitude, and affection, to your sacred person and government. Our loyalty and fidelity are inviolable. Our resolution to maintain your undoubted title to this imperial crown, and the Protestant succession in your illustrious house, at the hazard of our lives and fortunes, is never to be shaken. Happy shall we be in every instance, whereby we may be able to contribute to the glory, prosperity, and ease of your reign. Your majesty's prudence, and the benevolence of your royal heart, have pointed out to us the most agreeable means of promoting these ends, by so strongly inculcating the continuance of that union and good harmony, which subsist amongst your people. In doing this, your majesty has set an inviting and powerful example to all your subjects, which we are determined to follow, by performing every thing on our part to strengthen and improve this happy situation.

His majesty's most gracious answer:

My lords,

I return you my hearty thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. Nothing can be more agreeable to me, than your unanimous concurrence in the several weighty

matters which I laid before you. The assurances you give me of your fidelity and affection to my person and government, and of your zeal for the true interest of your country, and for the support of my allies, afford me the highest satisfaction, and will have the best effect both at home and abroad. It shall be my constant endeavour to answer the expectations which you have formed of my reign.

The humble Address of the House of Commons to the King.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, approach your royal presence, to express the deepest sense of the great and severe loss which your majesty and these kingdoms have sustained by the death of your majesty's royal grandfather, our late most excellent sovereign; the memory of whose just and prosperous reign will be held in reverence by latest posterity.

We beg leave to congratulate your majesty on your happy accession to the throne, the only consideration that can alleviate our grief for such a loss. The knowledge of your majesty's royal virtues, wisdom, and firmness, opens to your faithful subjects the fairest prospect for their future happiness at home, and for the continuance of that weight and influence of your majesty's crown abroad, so essentially necessary, in this arduous and critical conjuncture, for the preservation of that system, upon which the liberty of Europe depends.

We return your majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne; and acknowledge, with the liveliest sentiments of duty, gratitude, and exultation of mind, those most affecting and animating words of our most gracious sovereign: That, born and educated in this country, he glories in the name of Briton. And we offer to your majesty the full tribute of our hearts, for the warm expressions of your truly royal and tender affection towards your people. We venerate and confide in those sacred assurances of your majesty's firm and invariable resolution to adhere to, and strengthen, this excellent constitution in church and state; to maintain the toleration inviolate; and protect your faithful subjects in that greatest of human blessings, the secure enjoyment of their religious and civil rights.

Permit us to congratulate your majesty on the various

successes, which under the protection of God have attended the British arms during the last summer; particularly in the reduction of Montreal, and the entire province of Canada; a conquest equally important and glorious, achieved with intrepidity, and closed with humanity,—the genuine attributes of that British spirit, which, under the benign auspices of your majesty, will, we trust, continue, by the divine assistance, to give additional lustre to the arms of Great Britain.

This valuable and extensive acquisition, joined to the signal advantages gained in the East Indies; the flourishing state of our commerce; the respectable condition of your majesty's navy, by which the remains of the enemy's fleet continue blocked up in their harbours, whilst their trade is almost annihilated, are considerations which fill our hearts with the most pleasing hopes, that your majesty will be thereby enabled to prosecute this just and necessary war, to that great and desirable object of establishing, in conjunction with your allies, a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.

We see, with the greatest pleasure, that the progress of the French armies in Germany, notwithstanding their superiority of numbers has been stopt, and, to the honour of your majesty's arms, their attempts hitherto baffled, by the wise and able conduct of his serene highness prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

When we consider the stupendous efforts made in every campaign by your majesty's great ally, the king of Prussia, the defeat of the Austrians in Silesia, and that recent and glorious victory obtained over the army commanded by marshal Daun, we cannot sufficiently admire the invincible constancy of mind, and inexhaustible resources of genius, displayed by that magnanimous monarch, to whom the most dangerous and difficult situations have only administered fresh occasions for glory.

Our most dutiful acknowledgments are due to your majesty for the mention which you have so graciously made of the distinguished valour and intrepidity of your officers and forces by sea and land, and for the declaration of your majesty's constant resolution to encourage and reward such merit; and we return our most humble thanks to your majesty, for your favourable acceptance of the zealous and useful service of the militia in the present arduous conjuncture.

We assure your majesty, that your faithful commons, thoroughly sensible of this important crisis; and desirous, with the divine assistance, to render your majesty's reign successful and glorious in war, happy and honourable in peace (the natural return of a grateful people to a gracious and affectionate sovereign), will concur in such measures as shall be requisite for the vigorous and effectual prosecution of the war; and that we will cheerfully and speedily grant such supplies as shall be found necessary for that purpose, and for the support of the king of Prussia, and the rest of your majesty's allies: firmly relying on your majesty's wisdom, goodness, and justice, that they will be applied in such a manner as will most effectually answer the ends for which they are granted, and with the utmost economy that the nature of such great and extensive operations will allow; and that we will make such an adequate provision for your majesty's civil government, as may be sufficient to maintain the honour and dignity of your crown with all proper and becoming lustre.

Your majesty's faithful commons approach your royal person with hearts penetrated by the warmest and liveliest sense of your unbounded tenderness and concern for the welfare of your people; and rejoicing at the high satisfaction your majesty takes in the union which so universally prevails throughout your kingdoms. A deep sense of that national strength and prosperity visibly derived from this salutary source, and, above all, your majesty's approbation of that happy union, and the natural disposition and wish of your royal heart to cement and promote it; are the strongest incentives to concord, and the surest pledge of its duration. The fixed resolution which your majesty has declared, to countenance and encourage the practice of true religion and virtue, will, we doubt not, prove the best means of drawing down the favour of God upon a dutiful and united nation: and we shall never cease devoutly to offer up our ardent vows to the Divine Providence, that, as a recompense for these royal virtues, your majesty may reign in the hearts of a free and happy people; and, that they, excited by your majesty's benevolent care to discharge your royal function, and animated by gratitude for the enjoyment of so many blessings, may make the due return, by a constant obedience to your laws, and by the most steady attachment and loyalty to your person and government.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I return you my cordial thanks for this most dutiful and affectionate address, and for your warm expressions of fidelity to my person, and attention to the honour and dignity of my crown.

The unanimous assurances that you will make effectual and speedy provision for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and for the support of my allies, yield me the truest satisfaction, and will, I trust, prove the happy means of reducing the enemy to the terms of a just and honourable peace. With such zeal and harmony among my people, I have only to implore the continuance of the Divine blessings on their generous efforts, and on my ardent endeavours for the permanent felicity of my loving subjects.

St. James's, Nov. 12, 1760.

This day the following address of the university of Cambridge, was presented to his majesty by his grace the duke of Newcastle, their chancellor, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Sandby, master of Magdalen college, vice chancellor, the right hon. the earl of Hardwicke, high steward, and several of the nobility, students in the university; the bishops of Norwich, Litchfield and Coventry, Chester, St. David's, Chichester, Peterborough, and Bristol; with a great number of heads of houses, doctors, and masters of arts; all in their proper university habits.

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

The humble address of the chancellor, masters and scholars, of the university of Cambridge.

Most gracious sovereign,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the chancellor, masters, and scholars, of the university of Cambridge, lamenting with the sincerest grief the death of our late most gracious sovereign; and being truly sensible of the blessings we enjoyed under his glorious reign, humbly beg leave to approach your royal presence, to testify our deepest concern for the severe and most afflicting loss, which your majesty and these kingdoms have sustained by that melancholy event; and with hearts full of the sincerest duty, and most affectionate zeal, to congratulate your majesty on your happy accession to the throne of your royal ancestors.

The remarkable prosperity and success, which, by the

divine Providence, have been vouchsafed to us, through the long and illustrious reign of your royal grandfather; the acknowledged lenity, moderation, and wisdom, of his government; that uniform regard to our laws and constitution, which was the invariable rule of his conduct; that constant and inviolable integrity, with which his engagements were fulfilled; that firmness and resolution, with which his councils were directed; as they were productive of the most invaluable blessings, justly demand the most affectionate remembrance, and grateful acknowledgments, of a dutiful and happy people.

We, of this university, in particular, who have been distinguished by the most signal marks of his especial favour, who have been honoured by repeated acts of his royal munificence; who have ever experienced the continued support and encouragement of his most gracious countenance and protection, can never be so unmindful of our duty and obligations, as not to retain the most lively impressions, and on all occasions testify the warmest sense of gratitude towards our royal benefactor.

The pleasing hopes, so justly raised in us, by the consideration of your majesty's princely virtues, early implanted, and successfully cultivated; of your eminent and public regard to our holy religion, and your well-known affection for our excellent constitution in church and state, have, by your majesty's most gracious and reasonable declaration in council, been improved into the strongest confidence, that every thing dear and valuable to us will be preserved in its full extent, under your majesty's auspicious government.

Engaged as we are by every principle of duty, we will not fail to offer up our most devout and fervent prayers, that your majesty's gracious intention to promote the welfare of your subjects, and to support the dignity of your crown, may be ever attended with success; that the dreadful effects of the present destructive, though necessary war, may be succeeded by the lasting blessings of an honourable and happy peace; and that your majesty's throne may be ever fixed on that most solid and glorious foundation, on which it now stands, the united affections of a free and loyal people.

Permit us, sir, with all humility, to add our most earnest and faithful assurances to your majesty, that your university of Cambridge, ever firmly united in principles of loyalty and affection to your royal and illustrious family,

will invariably persevere in the most dutiful attachment to your royal person and government; and that our zealous and unwearied endeavours shall be ever employed to impress deeply on the minds of the rising generation, intrusted to our care, the most sincere and awful reverence for our religion; the most zealous regard for that happy government under which we live; and the truest sentiments of allegiance, fidelity, and affection to your sacred majesty; that so, under the settled influence of these good principles, and by the wisdom of your majesty's councils, the blessings which we now enjoy, may be perpetuated under the government of your royal and august house.

Given under our common seal, this 10th day of November, 1760.

To which address his majesty was pleased to give this most gracious answer:

I thank you for this very dutiful and loyal address. The zeal and affection you shew to my person, family, and government, and the assurance you give me of educating the youth under your care, in a due reverence to our most holy religion, and in the principles of zeal and affection to our happy establishment in church and state, are most acceptable to me, and cannot fail of recommending you to my favour and protection.

His majesty was pleased to receive them very graciously; and they had all the honour to kiss his majesty's hand.

The day following, the university of Cambridge waited upon her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales; and his grace the duke of Newcastle, their chancellor, made their compliments of condolence and congratulation.

To which her royal highness was pleased to return the following answer:

I thank you for your very kind attention to me; and I feel most sensibly the duty and affection you express to the king my son.

Her royal highness received them very graciously; and they had all the honour to kiss her royal highness's hand.

On the 14th, the following humble address of

the university of Oxford was presented to his majesty by the Rev. Dr. Browne, the vice-chancellor, accompanied by the earl of Litchfield, their high-steward, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord-keeper of the great seal, his grace the archbishop of York, and the following noblemen and bishops, who had been formerly, or are at present, of the said university, viz., their graces the duke of Beaufort, duke of Leeds, and duke of Queensberry: the marquis of Carnarvon; the earls of Suffolk, Northampton, Cardigan, Abingdon, Dartmouth, Aylesford, and Bath; lords Greville, Montague, Say and Sele, Wenman, Parker, Beauchamp, North, and Dungarvon: the bishops of Durham, Salisbury, St. Asaph, Worcester, Oxford, Bangor, and Ossory; lords Talbot and Mansfield; the chancellor of the exchequer, and lord chief-justice Willes; together with many of the younger sons of the nobility and baronets, and a great number of the heads of houses, doctors in divinity, law, and physic, the two proctors, and many masters of arts, and bachelors of civil law, all in their proper academical habits, attended by sir Roger Newdigate, bart. and Peregrine Palmer, esq., their representatives in parliament.

To the KING's most excellent Majesty.

Most gracious sovereign,

We, the chancellor, masters, and scholars of your majesty's most faithful and loyal university of Oxford, beg leave to approach your royal presence with our humble tribute of unfeigned duty and allegiance, and with our most cordial congratulations on your majesty's happy accession to the throne of your ancestors; in full persuasion, that your majesty alone can compensate for the otherwise irretrievable loss these kingdoms must have sustained, in the unexpected death of your royal grandfather; a prince who was called from his people at a time when he had filled their hearts with the utmost joy; in the midst of their triumphs, thanksgivings, and congratulations; who lived to see his councils blessed with

success, and his arms with victory in every part of the globe; who lived to see the British name, under his auspices, advanced to the highest pitch of dignity and grandeur, and concluded his long and prosperous reign, when full of years and glory.

Our eyes are now turned on your majesty's sacred person, the heir of his crown, his virtues, and his fame; ordained by the peculiar favour of Providence, to finish and complete what is still wanting towards the establishment of general tranquillity, and the attainment of an honourable and lasting peace; to repair the ruins and ravages of a destructive war, and to secure the domestic happiness of your subjects, by preserving and strengthening the constitution both in church and state.

Such extensive blessings we may reasonably hope from your majesty's innate goodness and acknowledged virtue; from your tenderest affection and regard for this your native country; from those principles of religion and morality implanted in your royal breast by the precepts and example of your much-lamented father, cultivated from your early youth by the instruction of pious and learned prelates, and happily perfected under the guardian care and inspection of a most excellent princess.

Your majesty, having thus happily experienced the benefits of a literary and religious education, will naturally look down with an indulgent eye, on places and persons set apart for purposes so honourable and important. And your ancient and loyal university of Oxford, ever faithful to monarchy on the most trying occasions, for their part humbly hope to render themselves not unworthy of your royal protection and favour, by their assiduous endeavours, in their several stations and capacities, to answer the end of their institution, the promotion of loyalty, learning, and religion.

Given at our house of Convocation this 7th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1760.

To which his majesty was pleased to give the following most gracious answer:

Your assurances of zeal and affection for my person and government are very acceptable to me. Sound principles of religious and civil duties, early instilled into the minds of youth, and confirmed by examples of true piety and loyalty, in so eminent a seat of learning, cannot

fail to diffuse the happiest influences on church and state, and will always ensure to you my constant protection and favour.

They afterwards waited on her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales, at Leicester-house; and being introduced by sir William Irby, bart., her vice-chamberlain, the vice-chancellor made the compliments of the university to her royal highness in an elegant speech.

To which her royal highness was pleased to return the following answer:

I return you my hearty thanks for this strong mark of your affection to me, and feel most sensibly the duty and attachment you express to the person and government of the king my son.

They had all the honour to kiss her royal highness's hand.

The first time that his majesty appeared at the theatre, was on the 21st, when with the royal family he went to Drury-lane, to witness the tragedy of *Richard the Third*. The house was filled in every part by three o'clock, and a prodigious number of persons were disappointed of obtaining seats, by coming at the usual hour.

It was, however, not only from the city of London and the universities that addresses were presented to his majesty on his accession to the throne, but every county and town of the kingdom vied with each other in their sentiments of loyalty towards their new monarch. We shall, however, restrict ourselves to the insertion of two, coming as they do from two distinct bodies of men as opposite in their professions and pursuits, as can be found in the whole constitution of society. The first was the address of the people called Quakers, and was presented by Dr. Fothergill, on the 1st of December. It was as follows:

To George the Third, King of Great Britain, and the
Dominions thereunto belonging.

*The humble Address of his Protestant Subjects, the People
called Quakers.*

May it please the king,—Deeply affected with the sudden and sorrowful event that leads our fellow-subjects with condolence to the throne, we beg leave to express the sympathy we feel on this afflicting occasion.

Justly sensible of the favour and protection we have enjoyed during the late mild and happy reign, and impressed with the warmest sentiments of duty and gratitude to our deceased sovereign, we pay this tribute of unaffected grief to the memory of the father, and the friend of his people.

We have abundant reason to acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God, for continuing to this period a life of such importance to the welfare of these kingdoms—a period, when we behold a prince endowed with qualities that add lustre to a crown, formed by tuition and example to protect the liberties of his people, ascending the British throne, and, in the earliest acts of power, giving the most ample demonstrations of his royal regard for piety and virtue.

Ever faithful and zealously affected to thy illustrious house, though differing in sentiments and conduct from others of our fellow-subjects, we embrace this opportunity to crave thy indulgence and protection; and beg leave to assure the king, that our dissent proceeds not from a contumacious disregard to the laws, to custom, or authority, but from motives to us purely conscientious.

The same religious principle that produces this dissent, we trust, through divine assistance, will continue to engage us, as it always hath done since we were a people, to exert whatever influence we may be possessed of, in promoting the fear of God, the honour of the king, and the prosperity of his subjects.

May the Almighty bless thy endeavours to put a stop to the effusion of blood, and render thee the happy instrument of restoring peace and tranquillity. May sacred and unerring wisdom ever be thy guide, adorn thee with every virtue, and crown thee with every blessing, that future ages may commemorate the happiness of thy reign with grateful admiration.

Signed in London, the first day of the twelfth month, 1760.

His majesty's most gracious answer:

This dutiful and loyal address is very acceptable to me, and you may depend on my protection.

The second was from the crew of the Orford man-of-war; and, if sincerity be the touchstone of the excellence of an address, it will, we doubt not, bear away the palm from every address that was presented on the occasion, though it may yield in its classical merit, or the purity of its diction.

Most gracious sovereign lord our king,

Since all your lands their tribute bring

Of loyalty and duty;—please

T' accept the homage of your seas,

Neptune who under your command,

Craves leave to come and kiss your hand;

And we your servants, sons to him,

Give you three cheers from stern to stem.

And pray while we can splice a rope,

You live the anchor of our hope:

We mourn'd your royal grandsire dead,

But joy takes place that you succeed;

Receive these dues rough as they run,

Rough as the element we're on;

For they're sincere, and not for show,

Nor from dry thoughtless custom flow,

But a true sense of what we owe.

Our duty does not bounce nor boil,

Our pens not dipt in Oxford oil,

We use no tinsel acts to prove,

The force and ardour of our love,

But come as poor plain-dealing folk,

To tell you that we've hearts of oak,

And true as ever struck a stroke.

Nor do we make our zeal abound

With twenty shillings in the pound,

But will do for you all we can,

And all stand by you to a man.

Do tempests, war, or billows toss,

Do combinations make a fuss,

We'll steer you safe, Sir,—thus boys, thus.

Speak, and we'll let your thunder fly,

And make the world dance Barnaby;

Bring the Pretender to the jeers,

And cut off all the rebels' ears;

Make huffing Phil and Charles obey

Your sceptre, keep us but in pay.

If our king asks us, who are you?
 We humbly answer—Orford's crew.
 Let who else dare—we answer bluff,
 We're Orford's men—and that's enough.

It is important to remark, that in his speech his majesty declares his resolution to maintain the war with firmness and vigour, until a safe and honourable peace be obtained; and, that he relies upon the hearty concurrence of the nation to support the king of Prussia and the rest of his allies. There are, however, some circumstances connected with this part of the speech which should not pass unnoticed, for this clause of it was not inserted spontaneously by the king, but at the earnest instigation of Mr. Pitt. The king of Prussia had always been a great favourite with the English nation, whose generous sympathy in his fortunes seemed to rise in proportion to the increasing number and success of his enemies. With the English court, however, Frederick was so much the reverse of being upon friendly terms, that until the two last years of George the Second's reign, there were no two courts in christendom, which entertained a more cordial hatred for each other, than those of St. James's and Berlin. Frederick, among other means which he took to gall the feelings of the British monarch, had for his ambassador at Paris, an attainted peer of Britain, the earl Marischal, and would receive no other in return from France but one of the same stamp, the earl Tyrconnel, both of whom wore the order of the Garter, given them by the chevalier; and, the former in particular, always with great ostentation, when in the presence of lord Albemarle, the British ambassador, who appeared with the same order duly conferred upon him by

George II. It was owing to the wise councils of Mr. Pitt that a reconciliation was at length brought about between the two courts, and to his bold and well-concerted measures that the alliance was followed up with a degree of success, which flattered the proudest hopes of the British people, and made a declaration of perseverance in the same course, one of the most acceptable assurances they could possibly receive from their new sovereign. During the greater part of his life, he had been educated under the inspection of those, who entertained very unfavourable opinions of our continental connexions, and of the exertions which we made for the preservation or aggrandisement of the Hanoverian dominions, exertions which according to them, were greatly disproportioned to their object. It was hardly possible that the young monarch should not have adopted the political opinions of those whom he had been taught too revere; and, though in his address he spoke of a vigorous prosecution of the war, there is little doubt that he sincerely wished for the restoration of peace. In this opinion Mr. Pitt by no means concurred; on the contrary he was decidedly of opinion, not through complaisance to his former king, (for certainly complaisance could not be reckoned amongst his virtues), but merely through personal conviction, that the war, prosecuted with vigour on the continent, must tend to the glory, and ultimately to the good of Great Britain. In conjunction with the king of Prussia, a monarch whose heroism he admired, he had formed an extensive plan of operations, and to carry the plan into execution was the great end of his politics.

The ascendancy of lord Bute* now began

* Those who are accustomed to trace the most important events to causes the most trivial, will not be surprised to learn that the first success of lord Bute, and consequently all the good and evil which his great power occasioned, was owing to the circumstance of an apothecary in Lime-street keeping a carriage. His lordship was living in a very domestic and re-

to display itself in various ways, even immediately on the accession of his majesty; the name of the duke of Cumberland was struck out of the liturgy; and another circumstance, not less remarkable, excited general attention, which was, that lord Bute was made ranger of Richmond park, in the room of the princess Amelia, who was literally turned out.

It was the fixed design of the party, which the new king brought with him from Leicester-house, to remove the ministers, and conclude the war at once; but the tide of popularity ran so strong in favour of both, that they were obliged to postpone the execution of their design, until they had prepared the nation to receive it. For this purpose a great number of writers were employed to calumniate the late king, the duke of Cumberland, Mr. Pitt, and all the whigs.

The late king was reviled for the affection which he had shewn to his native country, for his love of female society*, and for his attachment to the whigs.

The duke was charged with inhumanity; he was styled—"a prince that delighteth in blood," because the princess of Wales had sometime ago conceived a jealousy of his popularity. Nothing however could be more unjust than this suspicion; there was not a person in the kingdom more firmly attached to the rights of her son.

The whigs were all stigmatized as confirmed republicans, although many of them had exhausted their fortunes in support of the monarchy. But Mr. Pitt was the principal object of their calumny. He was assailed in newspapers, in pamphlets, and in every other channel of conveyance to the public. The war upon the continent was called *his* German war; his former opposition to German measures was contrasted with his present conduct; the expenses of former wars were compared with the present war; the ruin of the country, the annihilation of all public credit, were predicted and deplored, as the inevitable consequences of the present unjust, impolitic, and

tired manner at Richmond, attending only to the education of his children, and not even allowing himself the indulgence of a carriage. Mr. M., an apothecary, whose country-house was near that of lord Bute, kept a chariot, and one day invited his lordship to take a place in it to go to Moulsey Hurst, where there was to be a great cricket match, under the auspices of Frederick, prince of Wales, father of George III. The offer was accepted, and they had not been long on the ground, before it began to rain. To amuse the prince, during this cessation of the cricket, a rubber of whist was proposed, but only three persons could be found of sufficient rank to entitle them to the honour: at last some one recollected that he had seen a nobleman in Mr. M.'s chariot. Lord Bute was accordingly invited to be of the party, when he so pleased the prince, (who had never seen him before), that he invited him to Kew, an invitation which the Scotch lord did not hesitate to accept. From that time lord Bute became a great favourite of the prince, and was ultimately intrusted with the education of the then heir presumptive to the crown.

Dr. Johnson once said of lord Bute, "It was said of Augustus, that it would have been better for Rome that he had never been born, or had never died; so it would have been better for the nation if lord Bute had never been minister, or had never resigned." But one of the strongest and most pointed remarks which the doctor ever uttered respecting lord Bute, and on which it would not become me at present to expatiate, was, when being once in company with aldermen Lee and Wilkes, the former exclaimed, "Poor old England is lost;" to which Johnson replied, "Sir, it is not so much to be lamented that old England is lost, as *that the Scotch have found it*. To which Wilkes added, "Had lord Bute governed Scotland only, I should not have taken the trouble to write his eulogy, and dedicate 'MORTIMER' to him." To those versed in the history of their country, the latter allusion requires no explanation.

* After the death of queen Caroline, the king was very fond of a game at cards with the countess of Pembroke, Albemarle, and other distinguished ladies. His attachment to cards was transferred to his attachment for the ladies, and it was said, that what he gained by the one he lost by the other.

impracticable war; for although it was successful, yet they affirmed, that every victory and every conquest was a fresh wound to the kingdom. Mr. Pitt's thirst for war, they exclaimed was insatiable; his ambition knew no bounds; in fine, he was nearly ruining the kingdom with conquests.

By the conquests of Canada they affirmed, that all had been obtained, that justice gave us a right to demand; every subsequent conquest, they affirmed, was not only superfluous but unjust; that it was now perfect suicide to go on conquering what must be surrendered; they wept over our victories. The nation, they said, was destroying itself; at the same time they held out the most false and flattering pictures of the enemy's strength and resources.

Truth compels us to expose the names of those venal writers. Smollett, Mallett, Francis, Home, Murphy, Mauduit*, and many others were the instruments employed upon this occasion. It was reported at the time, that the sum paid to these, and other hired writers under the control of lord Bute, amounted in three years to above 30,000*l.*, and the printing charges to more than double that sum. But the end was gained, and the unanimity of the country destroyed.

Considerable alarm was excited on the 2d by an accident which occurred in Hyde-park on his majesty mounting his horse; the serious consequences of which were however prevented by the presence of mind which his majesty dis-

played. The king had but just mounted his horse, when the animal suddenly reared up, and was falling backwards, when his majesty threw himself off, and fortunately escaped without receiving any hurt. By way of prevention he was immediately bled, but was sufficiently recovered to attend Covent-Garden theatre in the evening, to see *Henry V*†.

The interest occasioned by his majesty's accession to the throne having in a great degree subsided, it was considered necessary to withdraw the attention of the public from some political measures which were then in agitation, and accordingly the rumour was propagated, that the hand of a German princess had been solicited in marriage for his majesty, and that it had been most unequivocally granted; but, as no particular princess was stated, ingenuity was put upon the rack to discover from what particular quarter of Germany the future queen of England was to arise, like a Venus from the ocean. One party looked with an anxious eye to Saxe-Gotha; another to Brunswick. The females of the former family at this period by no means engrossed the good opinion of the English people; and it must be acknowledged, that every act which malice could devise, and every epithet which calumny and detraction could invent, were most liberally employed to render the Saxe-Gothan family obnoxious to the people of this country. As the choice of a princess of that family was supposed to emanate from Leicester-house, lord Bute very

* Mr. Pitt was once thrown accidentally into the company of Mauduit; and he was pointed out to the minister, as being one of the most virulent writers against him. "I know him well," said Mr. Pitt, "he is *maudit*;" that is, in French, he is cursed.

† It has been stated by a cotemporary writer, that the first appearance of our late monarch at the theatre was on the 2d of December. This is, however, incorrect. He visited Drury-lane theatre first, which was on the 21st of November, and then visited Covent-Garden on the 2d of December. It was on his first visit that the indecorous expressions were used, alluded to in the letter of Horace Walpole.

naturally came in for his share of the opprobrium, and the cry of—"No Scotch minister, and no Saxe-Gothan princess," resounded through the metropolis. But, as it frequently happens in private life, that the overstrained officiousness of friends often defeats the very end for which they are striving, so in this instance, the interference of the contending parties rendered the illustrious individual more averse to their intended measures. Willingly, however, would he have made one of his subjects the partner of his throne and bed, and at one period, he had it in his sincere contemplation, to devise those measures by which his wishes could be gratified. The well-known and ardent attachment of his majesty to lady Sarah Lenox was privately fostered by Mr. Fox, afterwards lord Holland, and every manœuvre was tried to add vigour to the flame, which at that time formed at once the happiness and misery of his life. Private theatricals were at this period the fashionable amusements of the higher classes of society, and plays were frequently acted at Holland-house, by the junior branches of the nobility. We will not enter here into a prolix disquisition of the dangerous effects of private theatricals upon the morals of individuals; but it must be allowed, that a beautiful female, in the moment of even fictitious grief, and surrounded with other adjuncts, which have all a tendency to throw a blandishment over the senses, possesses that irresistible influence over the human heart, which is not to be controlled by all the established forms of ceremony and etiquette, nor by any of the laws which a crooked state policy may have enacted. His majesty's attachment to theatricals was well known, and he often attended the dramatic representations at Holland-house, *incog*. We have the following description of lady Sarah Lenox, in one of the

characters which she performed at Holland-house, contained in a letter of Horace Walpole's, and the interesting situations in which the heroine is placed, were in every way calculated to increase the ardour of the monarch's love.

I was exceedingly amused on Tuesday night (in January, 1761); there was a play at Holland-house, acted by children; not all children, for lady Sarah Lenox and lady Susan Strangeways played the women. It was *Jane Shore*. Charles Fox was Hastings. The two girls were delightful, and acted with so much nature and simplicity, that they appeared the very things they represented. Lady Sarah was more beautiful than you can conceive, and her very awkwardness gave an air of truth to the sham of the part, and the antiquity of the time, which was kept up by her dress, taken out of Montfaugon. Lady Susan was dressed from Jane Seymour. I was infinitely more struck with the last scene between the two women than ever I was when I have seen it on the stage. When lady Sarah was in white, with her hair about her ears, and on the ground, no Magdalen by Corregio was half so lovely and expressive.

This attachment of his majesty became the subject of grave deliberation between the dowager princess of Wales and lord Bute; and, although they were foiled in their hopes of establishing a princess of the house of Saxe-Gotha as queen of England, yet they were secretly determined to set every engine in motion which could defeat the intentions of his majesty towards the object of his affections; and the wary lord immediately despatched a confidential person to the different courts of Germany, in order to investigate the character of the marriageable princesses, and to report to him upon the degree of personal charms which they possessed. Having thus begun to collect the materials with which the mine was to be charged, which was to explode upon his majesty as soon as certain political measures connected with the ministry, and which were then

in agitation, would allow of, it was considered in the mean time necessary to divert the attention of his majesty as much as possible from all matters of a private nature, by embroiling him in the political intrigues which distinguished the period, not only of his accession to the throne, but also of several after years of his reign. In this respect their efforts were crowned with the most decided success.

The two great contending parties at this time were headed by Lord Bute and Mr. Pitt, and we find the most celebrated characters descending to the commission of actions of the most mean and despicable nature. The barometer of the political world rose or fell; the equipment of the navy or the army was expedited or delayed; and the internal prosperity of the country was promoted, or injured, according as the intrigues of the rival parties were carried into effect. The influence which lord Bute possessed over the king, began to exhibit itself more and more. Several eminent Scots who had been dismissed by the late king, were, on the accession of his majesty, restored to their places, to the great dissatisfaction of the people in general, and laid the foundation for those clamours which afterwards broke out in such an alarming manner against his majesty and the faction by which he was ruled. The restoration of sir Harry Erskine to the army, by which means he was placed over the head of the duke of Richmond, excited the particular indignation of the party opposed to lord Bute, and the duke desired an audience of his majesty. It appearing, however, from his majesty's answer, that the removal of Sir Harry Erskine from the army in the late reign was owing to his attachment to him, when prince of Wales, and that he had then made him a promise to restore him to his rank when he should come to the crown, the duke submitted. This cir-

cumstance has been mentioned, as it throws a particular light upon the opinion which George II. entertained of the individuals who surrounded his late majesty, when prince of Wales; for certainly, if sir Harry Erskine had committed no other fault than that of testifying a strong attachment to the prince, the punishment which he received was of the most unexampled severity; and indeed we should be inclined to discredit the fact altogether, were it not stated in a letter of the duke of Richmond's, in exculpation of the charge which was brought against him; in having accepted, and then resigned, a place in the king's bed-chamber. That his grace accepted the office of a lord of the bed-chamber is undoubted, but his resignation was occasioned by the promotion of lord Fitzmaurice, (a countryman of lord Bute's), to the rank of aide-de-camp to his majesty, over the head of the duke's brother, lord George Lennox, who at the disastrous battle of Closter-Campen, in Germany, carried off in his arms, the hereditary prince of Brunswick, who had been wounded in his leg, and could not walk. The appointment of lord Fitzmaurice was however obtained by lord Bute, with the sole view of exciting the displeasure of the duke of Richmond, who, as it was reported to lord Bute, had not only spoken offensively of the Scotch on the promotion of sir Harry Erskine, but also of lord Bute in particular. This, however, was denied by the duke, but he nevertheless resigned his office, which was the signal for all the adherents of the Bute party to raise their clamorous voices against him.

On the 9th of December, his majesty went to the house of peers, and gave the royal assent to several acts, amongst which was one for the support of his majesty's household, and of the honour and dignity of the crown of Great Britain. On this occasion, all the yeomen

of the guards, footmen, and other attendants, appeared in their new liveries, and made a most splendid shew. The new state-coach was an object of particular attraction, it having been painted by the celebrated Cipriani; and it appears that this branch of the arts, for so it was reckoned, was at one time a source of no small employment to the original royal academicians. The influence of fashion over the conveniencies and comforts of life, has in no article been more arbitrary and capricious than in the decorations of the coaches and chariots of our nobility and gentry. Since the days of queen Elizabeth these vehicles have been improved to a degree of comfort and elegance which the greatest admirers of antiquity will not wish to see reduced to their primitive simplicity; but while the improvements have been regular and progressive, their ornamental decorations have been various and changeable.

On the 10th, addresses were presented to his majesty from Middlesex, Cirencester, Cheshire, the several boroughs of Eye, Bodmyn in Cornwall, Elgin in Scotland, and Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, Wokingham, Lestwithiell, Abingdon, Bewdly, the county of Dumbarton, Seaford, Lewes, Barnstaple, Youghal, the bishop and clergy of the diocese of Ely, the bishop and

clergy of the diocese of Chester, and the borough of Wareham*.

On the following morning his majesty went to Kew, attended by the master of the horse, escorted by a party of the light horse, and returned to St. James's about one o'clock, directly after which he held a council. Twelve chaplains to his majesty were the same day sworn in at the lord chamberlain's office.

On Sunday the 14th, his majesty and the rest of the royal family attended divine service at the royal chapel St. James's, on which occasion, the sermon was preached by the reverend Dr. John Somner. After which, a grand court, a drawing-room, and cabinet council, were held at St. James's palace. His majesty at this time, actuated by the most patriotic views, in consideration of the war with France, forbade all French wines of every description and sort to be drank in the palace, not even excepting his own table. In order to give some idea of the quantity of wine which was at this time consumed in the palace, it was calculated that this order of his majesty would produce a saving of at least 40,000*l.* a year.

On the 20th of December, the following address of the commission of the general assembly of the church of Scotland, was pre-

* In the history of addresses, which is written in so facetious a manner in that celebrated periodical work the *Monitor*, the two following ludicrous examples are omitted:

No prince was more addressed by his people than king Charles II., who at the same time suffered him to starve, and scarcely allowed him the necessary supplies for the expenses of government, which forced him, contrary to his inclination, to become a pensioner to France. Killegrew, of facetious memory, represented this in the most lively manner. He privately gave orders to the king's tailor, to make one of his majesty's coat-pockets of a most enormous size, and the other scarcely larger than a thumb; the merry monarch being informed that it was done at the desire of Killegrew, asked the reason. "May it please your majesty," said the arch wag, "the large pocket is to receive the addresses of your subjects, and the other to put the money in they intend to present you with."

But the most remarkable address was from the borough of Totness in Devonshire, in the reign of George I., after the emperor Charles VI. and the king of Spain had united themselves by the treaty of Vienna, which alliance seemed to promise no good to this country; the good people of this borough assured his majesty that they were not only ready to grant him 4*s.* in the pound *land tax*, but if his service required it, to give him the other 16*s.* likewise. The loyalty of the borough was put to the test, when it was discovered, that the corporation had not a single foot of ground on which the land tax could be levied.

sented to his majesty by Dr. Robert Hamilton, professor of divinity in the university of Edinburgh, their moderator; Dr. George Wishart, Dr. Alexander Webster, Dr. George Kay, Dr. John Jardine, ministers of Edinburgh; and Gilbert Elliot, esq., one of the lords of the admiralty, and an elder of that church: they were introduced by the right honourable the earl of Holderness, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state:

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the ministers and elders met in the commission of the general assembly of the church of Scotland, humbly beg leave to take this first opportunity of presenting to your majesty our sincere expressions of condolence for the loss which your majesty, and the nation have sustained, by the death of our late most gracious sovereign.

When we reflect on the many eminent virtues which adorned his character, and the prosperity we enjoyed under his long and happy reign, we cannot but be affected with the deepest concern for the loss of a life so valuable and important.

At the same time we do most thankfully acknowledge the goodness of God, who raised up a successor in that royal family which hath been so remarkably the blessing and glory of these kingdoms.

Permit us, Sir, in all humility, to approach your sacred person with our most hearty congratulations upon your majesty's happy accession to the crown of your ancestors. The early discoveries you have given of that greatness of mind and goodness of heart, which form true majesty, and ensure the happiness of a free people; your gracious declaration, expressing your tenderest affection for this your native country, and your resolution to preserve and strengthen the constitution both in church and state, are to us the surest pledges of the continued prosperity and glory of Great Britain, and make us reflect, with gratitude to Almighty God, upon that happy period when our religion and liberties were secured by the settlement of the succession to the crown in the illustrious house of Hanover.

Rejoicing with our fellow-subjects in the security of

all our important interests under your majesty's government, we have a peculiar satisfaction, and an entire confidence in the solemn assurance your majesty hath given us, that you will inviolably maintain and preserve the rights and privileges of the church of Scotland as by law established.

Bound as we are to your majesty, by every tie of duty and interest, we beg you to be assured of our unshaken fidelity, and inviolable attachment to your majesty's person and government.

Impressed with these sentiments, we shall not fail to inculcate upon the minds of a loyal people, the principles of duty and obedience to your majesty, and to use our utmost endeavours to promote the pious design of your royal proclamation against profaneness and immorality.

That the God of all grace may abundantly bless you with all spiritual and temporal blessings; that your reign may be long and glorious; that your throne may be established in righteousness, and in the affections of your people; that the Lord of Hosts may continue to bless your arms, and those of your allies, with signal success; that the calamities of this just and necessary war may speedily terminate in an honourable and lasting peace; and, that when your majesty has acted your part with honour and renown as a faithful servant of God upon earth, you may shine with the highest glory in the heavenly kingdom, are the sincere and fervent prayers of

May it please your majesty,

Your majesty's most faithful, most dutiful, and most loyal subjects,

The ministers and elders met in the commission of the general assembly of the church of Scotland,

Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, by

ROBERT HAMILTON, Moderator.

Edinburgh, November 19, 1760.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

The zeal and fidelity the church of Scotland express for my person and government, in this dutiful and loyal address are very agreeable to me, and I thank them for it. They may depend upon my constant support and protection.

The compliments of condolence and congratulation of the States-general were paid to his majesty by three ambassadors extraordinary, who were allowed 120 florins each per day, and 15,000 for their equipages. Mr. Hope, Mr. Vanderpool, and M. de Petrone, were the three ambassadors.

On Sunday the 21st his majesty was attended to the royal chapel by lord Bute, when a sermon was preached by Dr. Dempster, second master of Eton school, which not only gave great offence to his majesty, but drew down upon the reverend divine, the whole resentment of his lordship. The text was taken from Esther v., ver. 13. "Yet all this availeth nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." The allusions were so apt to the situation which lord Bute held, and the satire was directed with so much keenness, that it was impossible to mistake the object for whom they were intended, and all the eyes of the congregation were directed towards his lordship, who undismayed

"Bore his blushing honours thick upon him."

From this circumstance originated the celebrated caricature of Mordecai at the King's Gate; in which lord Bute is represented sitting before St. James's palace, and beckoning to a crowd of Scotchmen, who are seen at a distance hastening from the mountains in the most ragged attire, and all his pockets filled with papers, on which are inscribed the names of the places which were vacant, and ready to be given away.

An alarm was at this time excited by a report of a conspiracy having been detected, for the avowed purpose of assassinating the king. A man was apprehended in consequence, who deposed, that on his return from Hampstead to town on Tuesday night the 13th,

he heard several persons talking of a plot against the king's life, which he understood was to be put in execution at Kew; and, that upon his being perceived by them, they fired a pistol, the ball of which went through his hat, but did him no injury. He corroborated this statement before the privy-council, where he was most strictly interrogated by Mr. Pitt, but no further information could be extracted from him. The necessary precautions were taken, and the alarm gradually subsided. As a further proof that no fear whatever rested on the king's mind, he appeared at Drury-lane theatre on the 23d, to see the historical play of *King John*, previously to which he went to the house of peers, and gave the royal assent to several acts, amongst which was an act to enable his majesty to be governor of the South Sea Company.

The 25th being Christmas-day, was a high festival at court, when his majesty, preceded by the heralds, pursuivants, &c., went with their usual state to the chapel royal, and heard a sermon preached by his grace the archbishop of York; and, it being a collar day, the knights of the Garter, Thistle, and Bath, appeared in the collars of their respective orders. After the sermon was over, his majesty, prince Edward and princess Augusta went into the chapel royal, and received the sacrament from the hands of the bishop of Durham; and the king offered the byzant, or wedge of gold, in a purse, for the benefit of the poor, and the royal family all made offerings. His majesty afterwards dined with his royal mother at Leicester-house, and in the evening returned to St. James's.

The year 1760 closed with an apparent unanimity in the nation, but carrying with it a positive degree of danger; for the spirit of faction was abroad, and like the mole, the miner of the soil, was working in secret and in darkness,

at a future day to display the monument of its ravages to the world. His majesty came to the throne of this kingdom with more advantages than any of his predecessors since the revolution. Fourth in descent, and third in succession of his royal family, even the zealots of hereditary right, beheld in him something to flatter their favourite prejudices, and to justify a transfer of their attachments without a change in their principles. The person and cause of the pretender were become contemptible; his title disowned throughout Europe, and his party disbanded in England. His majesty came indeed to the inheritance of a mighty war, but victorious in every part of the globe, peace was always in his power not to negotiate, but to dictate. No foreign habits nor attachments withdrew him from the cultivation of his power at home. His influence was much strengthened and extended by additions from conquest, by an augmentation of debt, by an increase of his military and naval establishments; and coming to the throne in the prime and full vigour of youth, as from affection there was a strong dislike, so from dread, there seemed to be a general aversion from giving any thing like offence to a monarch, against whose resentment, opposition could not look for a refuge in any sort of revisionary hope.

These singular advantages inspired his majesty only with a more ardent spirit to preserve unimpaired the spirit of that national freedom to which he owed a situation so full of glory. But to others it suggested sentiments of a very different nature. They thought they now beheld an opportunity (by a certain sort of statesmen, never long undiscovered nor unemployed) of drawing to themselves by the aggrandizement of a court faction, a degree of power which they could never hope to de-

rive from natural influence, nor from honourable service, and which it was impossible they could hold, whilst the system of administration rested upon its former bottom. In order to facilitate the execution of their design, it was necessary to make many alterations in political arrangements, and a signal change in the opinions, habits, and connexions of the greater part of those, who at that time acted in public. This system is strongly exemplified in the following extract from *Doddington's Diary*, in which the facility is exhibited, with which the political changes were effected.

November 29, 1760.

Lord Bute came to me (Doddington) by appointment, and staid a great while. I pressed him much to take the secretary's office, and provide otherwise for lord Holderness;—he hesitated for some time, and then said, if that was the only difficulty, it would be easily removed, for lord Holderness was ready at his desire to quarrel with his fellow ministers, (on account of the slights and ill-usage which he had daily experienced), and go to the king, and throw up in seeming anger, and then he (Bute) might come in without seeming to displace any body.

These were the intriguing characters by whom his majesty, on his accession to the throne, was surrounded. They proceeded gradually, but not slowly, to destroy every thing of strength which did not derive its principal nourishment from the immediate pleasure of the court. The greatest weight of popular opinion and of party connexion was then with Mr. Pitt and the duke of Newcastle. Neither of these held their importance by the *new* tenure of the court. They were not, therefore, thought to be so proper as others for the services which were required by that tenure. It happened however very favourably for the new system, that, under a forced coalition, there rankled an incurable alienation and disgust be-

between the parties which composed the administration. Mr. Pitt was first attacked. Not satisfied with removing him from power, they endeavoured by various artifices to ruin his character. The other party seemed rather pleased to get rid of so oppressive a support, not perceiving that their own fall was prepared by his, and involved in it. Many other reasons prevented them from daring to look their true situation in the face. To the great whig families, it was extremely disagreeable, and seemed almost unnatural to oppose the administration of a prince of the house of Brunswick. Day after day they hesitated, and doubted, and lingered, expecting that other counsels would take place, and they were slow to be persuaded that all which had been done by the faction was the effect not of humour, but of system. It was more strongly and evidently the interest of the new court faction to get rid of the great whig connexions, than to destroy Mr. Pitt. The toryism of Bute was predominant and every minor consideration was sacrificed to support the system for which he had been so long contending, and the principles of which he had so assiduously instilled into the mind of his royal pupil. The power indeed of Mr. Pitt was vast and merited; but it was in a great degree personal, and therefore transient. That of the whigs was rooted in the country; for with a good deal less of popularity, they possessed a far more natural and fixed influence. Long possession of government; extensive property; obligations of favours given and received; connexion of office; ties of blood, of alliance, of friendship; the very name of whig, dear to the majority of the people; the zeal early begun and steadily continued to the royal family; all these combined, formed a body of power in the nation, not only highly respectable, but much to be feared by its adversaries.

The great ruling principle of the faction, and that which animated and harmonized all their proceedings, how various soever they may have been, was to signify to the world, that the court would proceed upon its own proper forces only, and that the pretence of bringing any other into its service was an affront to it, and not a support. Therefore when the chiefs were removed in order to go to the root, the whole party were put under a proscription so general and severe; as to take their hard-earned bread from the lowest officers in a manner, which had never been known before, even in general revolutions. But it was thought necessary effectually to destroy all dependencies but one, and to shew an example of the firmness and vigour with which the new system was to be supported.

For the character of our late monarch, let it not be supposed that he was privy to the deep laid snares, or the scandalous intrigues of those who, to use the phraseology of the times, *had got possession of him*. Lord Bute, prostituting his influence, and committing the honour of his sovereign, undertook, under the sanction of the royal name, to interfere in the elective franchises of the country, and to hold the rod of the royal displeasure over the heads of those who dared to oppose him in the parliamentary elections. He was the lord paramount of the political hemisphere of Leicester-house; moving in the orbit of corruption, he spread a pestilential influence over the fair and beautiful frame of the English constitution, making his sovereign the instrument wherewith the injury was to be inflicted.

In conformity to the laws of the country, parliament must be dissolved on or before the expiration of six months after the demise of the crown. The dissolution, therefore, of the existing parliament of 1760, was anxiously looked for by all parties, and in those cases in which

lord Bute could not succeed by his own personal influence, he involved his monarch, and fulminated the terrors of the royal displeasure in every quarter, in which the slightest breath of opposition presented itself.

We will first take a slight survey of the manner in which our late monarch *did* act in regard to the pending elections, and then contrast his conduct with that which lord Bute committed in his name, and for which he stood exposed at the time to all the obloquy and clamour of party spirit. At this period, the bribery act concerning elections was not in force, and the revenue of the country had been always applied by the minister of the day, to obtain the return of those members, who were known to be favourable to his measures, or to the expressed views of the royal party. When, however, the young monarch was applied to for the money, which was thought necessary to secure the elections, he entered his most decided protest against the advance of a farthing; and being subsequently asked, whom he would please to have put in nomination for such and such a place, his majesty briefly answered, *Nobody*; and being further asked if circular letters should not be sent to the different parts of England to recommend particular persons, as was generally the case, he desired it might not be done; but recollecting himself, he desired that circular letters might be sent, with the request, that "they would choose those most agreeable to themselves, *for he wished to be tried by his country.*" This, indeed, was an expression worthy of a British monarch, and it gave occasion to the following lines:

"Tried by your country! To your people's love,
Amiable prince, so soon appeal?
Stay till the tender sentiments improve,
Ripening to gratitude from zeal!

Years hence (yet, ah! too soon) shall Britain see
The trial of thy virtue past:
Who could foretell that your first wish would be,
What all believe will be your last?"

Having thus given an exposition of the real conduct of his majesty, we will reverse the picture, and shew the manner in which lord Bute acted in his name, in one case just previously to his accession to the throne, as prince of Wales, and on the other, immediately afterwards, as the king. The former is the case of Mr. Legge, to which a slight allusion has been already made, the particulars of which are as follows, and the perusal of which we strongly recommend to the partizans of that disinterested and conscientious minister, to whom the words of our great Shakspeare will apply most aptly:

To beguile time, look like the time,
Bear welcome in your hand, your eye, your tongue,
Look like the innocent flower, *but be the serpent under it.*

On the accession of the duke of Bolton to his title in 1759, Mr. Legge was solicited to succeed his grace, as one of the representatives of the county of Southampton. Lord Bute, however, nominated a Mr. Stuart, but as his lordship had no apparent relation in the county, Mr. Legge did not think of consulting him, and the county being almost unanimous in his favour, Mr. Stuart thought proper to decline the contest; and, here begins the duplicity and tergiversation of lord Bute, in the name of the prince of Wales. The following is the first letter sent to Mr. Legge upon Mr. Stuart retiring from the contest, and is replete with the guile of the serpent. It is dated Downing-street, November 25. After some preliminary matter of a complimentary nature, it goes on to state, for his lordship was too wary to write in his own name:

Lord Bute sent to me this morning, and told me, that having *an opportunity of saving you*, he had embraced it, and *done you an act of friendship*, for, that Mr. Stuart having been with him for his advice, whether to leave or pursue the election, as some of Mr. Stuart's friends thought this critical season of an invasion hanging over the kingdom, to be a very improper time for parliamentary contests, his lordship had determined the point for relinquishing the pursuit; lord Bute added, that neither he nor the *greater person* whose name had been used during the contest, *would ever treat you with more coldness for what hath happened*; that lord Bute, however, expected as he had a claim upon you, in right of friendship, that you will concur (co-operate) with him, and give your aid to the person he shall recommend at a future election.

On the 12th December, a verbal message was sent by lord Bute to Mr. Legge, and which appears upon his books, as follows:

That he should bid adieu to the county of Southampton at the general election, and assist as far as lay in his power, the prince of Wales's nomination of two members, to which message a categorical answer was required.

Mr. Legge sent the following, in writing, the same day:

Mr. Legge understanding it to be expected, that he (who never had engaged at all in the county of Southampton, if the intentions of Leicester-house had been in time communicated to him,) shall not only refuse to be chosen himself at the next general election, but assist lord Carnarvon and Mr. Stuart, in opposition to those who have supported Mr. Legge at the late election; is determined to submit to any consequences, rather than incur so great a disgrace.

Lord Bute sent a reply the same day, in the following words:

The instant Mr. Legge represents himself as bound in honour not to decline standing for Hampshire at the next general election, lord Bute is firmly persuaded that the prince will by no means desire it of him; but he does, out of *real friendship* to Mr. Legge, beseech him to consider very seriously, whether after triumphing over the prince's inclinations at present, lord Bute has *any method left of removing prejudices, that the late unhappy occurrences have strongly impressed the prince with**, than by being able to assure him that Mr. Legge will as far as shall be in his power, co-operate with his royal highness's wishes at the next general election.

Mr. Legge returned the following final answer:

Though in fact Mr. Legge has been so unhappy as to find himself opposed to the prince of Wales's inclinations, yet as to intentions, Mr. Legge feels himself entirely blameless; and he has too high a veneration for the prince of Wales's justice to think he will conceive lasting prejudices against any man for resisting those inclinations of which he was totally ignorant.

As Mr. Legge flatters himself this consideration will induce the prince of Wales to forgive his entering into engagements with the county of Southampton, he is certain that his royal highness will not condemn his adhering to those engagements when entered into.

Mr. Legge is obliged to lord Bute for the friendship he expresses towards him. Surely his lordship cannot doubt but that Mr. Legge should be extremely glad, if he could find himself in such a situation, as would permit him to have the honour of obeying the prince of Wales's commands, and seconding his wishes, without breaking the faith he has openly and publicly pledged to the county of Southampton. This, if he were to do, he should forfeit all title to the prince of Wales's countenance and protection, as certainly as he knows he should forfeit his royal highness's private good opinion.

* His lordship in this instance, as is generally the case with those who are acting with duplicity, quite forgets himself. In a former letter his lordship stated, that the *great person* would never treat Mr. Legge with more coldness for what had happened; and, a few days afterwards, he tells the same Mr. Legge, that his lordship has only one way left of removing the prejudices from that same great person's mind, which the late unhappy occurrences have impressed upon it, which is, by a total compromise of Mr. Legge's honour. This, amongst many others which could be enumerated, is a noble specimen of the manner in which his lordship was wont to testify his friendship.

Lord Bute, finding that Mr. Legge would not tarnish his honour, nor be the tool of his political machinations, smothered his resentment until the first opportunity occurred, and an indelible stain rests upon the character of lord Bute, in respect to the means which he selected to satisfy his revengeful disposition.

It is not to be disputed that in this instance, lord Bute compromised the honour of his prince, and in the following one, he compromised that of his sovereign, immediately on his accession to the throne.

Lord Bute was informed by one of his emissaries, that lord Egmont had written to his steward, Biddlecombe, with orders to shew the letter to the mayor of Bridgewater, wherein he informs him, that in consequence of the demise of the king, an election would soon take place, and that as there was every probability of his (lord Egmont) being called up to the house of peers, it was his intention to propose lord Percival in his room as member for Bridgewater. Lord Percival was however by no means agreeable to lord Bute, and as lord Egmont's intentions were known, on the supposition that he was to be made a peer, which it was never Bute's intention that he should be, a deep-laid scheme was formed by Bute in conjunction with Doddington, by which his majesty was represented as inclined to raise lord Egmont to the peerage, solely, on the condition that he relinquished all interference in the Bridgewater election, it being his majesty's wish to see that place represented by a particular individual, in reward for his services to him, when prince of Wales. Lord Egmont snapped greedily at the bait; he not only relinquished all idea of representing Bridgewater, but transferred the whole of his interest to lord Bute. This being secured, lord Bute wrote to lord Egmont, telling him, that the king was resolved to make no

more peers, *at present*, than those, who were before him. This naturally incensed lord Egmont, and he demanded an explanation from lord Bute, whether he was to understand that his majesty refused him the peerage for ever, or for this time only. No answer was returned. Lord Egmont lost his seat and his peerage, and Bute and Doddington exclaimed "We are now quit of his lordship."

We have been thus minute in these particulars, being actuated with the sole view of removing, as far as possible, the stigma which the party historians of the day have attempted to attach to our late monarch, in having exercised his influence in a clandestine manner to control the elective franchises of the people. It is natural to suppose that the Bute party would most cheerfully throw from their shoulders the dreadful responsibility of having influenced the elections in the king's name, without his privity or consent, in which he was made the dupe of a designing faction, and rendering him at the same time, guilty of acting in direct violation of the established and most sacred principles of the constitution. The ground-work, however, is here exposed of that extraordinary schism which took place in the councils of his majesty on his assuming the reins of government, and which exposed him so unfortunately to the clamour of an infuriated people.

It must have been highly pleasing to the moral and religious part of the community, to observe the strict attention which his majesty always paid to the observance of the Sabbath, and he had not been many weeks seated upon the throne before he saw the impropriety of holding his drawing-rooms on a Sunday, as they had a tendency to encourage a laxity of morals, by no means compatible with the solemn duties which our religion has imposed upon us, and in the performance of which, he, as the head of

the nation, ought to exhibit himself as the brightest example. It is indeed true, that the English court had been long tainted with that gross neglect and indifference to the established duties of the Sabbath, which are apparent in foreign countries, and which might have proceeded from the great attachment, which George II. always manifested for the customs of his country; but George III., being a Briton born, testified only an attachment to British manners; and, although he was well aware, that a sudden change could not be affected in the pursuits, the manners, nor the customs of a people, especially one governed by the proud and independent principles of the British constitution; yet, as he had the welfare of his people at his heart, he resolved to be the first to shew the example of a strict obedience to the duties of the Sabbath, and gradually to abolish all those customs connected with the court, which went to encourage profligacy or dissoluteness on a Sunday. It will be sufficient to notify one instance, in which his majesty was not only content with setting the example himself, but by his influence abolishing the custom of holding fashionable routs, balls, and assemblies, on the Sunday. The countess of D—— was at this time a star of the first magnitude in the galaxy of the fashionable world, and at the king's drawing-rooms on a Sunday, the whole conversation turned on the expected splendour of the ball or the rout which the countess was to give on that evening. This reached the ears of his majesty; and, on the very first opportunity, he took the countess aside, and informed her, that he had a particular favour to ask of her; and he added, that he hoped she would promise to grant it, before he informed her of the nature of it; pledging himself at the same time, that if she requested him to grant her the same fa-

vour, he would not hesitate a moment in complying. The countess most readily assented to the monarch's request, which was, that she would have no more routs nor assemblies at her house on a Sunday. "I am but a satellite, please your majesty," said the countess, "moving in the orbit of a superior planet." "I understand your reproof," said his majesty, "the orbit of the planet shall be altered." "Then," said the countess, "the satellite must follow." This was one of the first steps which his majesty took in private for the amelioration of the morals of the higher classes; and by setting the example himself, his endeavours were ultimately crowned with as great a portion of success as could be rationally expected.

The year 1760 closed without the occurrence of any very important event of a private or political nature; and the new year was ushered in by the following ode, composed by Whitehead, and which was performed before his majesty:

Strophe.

Still must the muse, indignant, hear
The clanging trump, the rattling car,
And usher in each opening year
With groans of death, and sounds of war?
O'er bleeding millions, realms oppress'd,
The tuneful mourner sinks distress'd,
Or breathes but notes of woe:
And cannot Gallia learn to melt,
Nor feel, what Britain long has felt
For her insulting foe?
Amidst her native rocks secure,
Her floating bulwarks hovering round,
What can the sea-girt realm endure,
What dread, through all her wat'ry bound?
Great queen of ocean, she defies
All but the Power that rules the skies,
And bids the storms engage:
Inferior foes are dash'd and lost,
As breaks the white wave on her coast,
Consumed in idle rage.

For alien sorrows heaves her gen'rous breast,
 She proffers peace to ease a rival pain,
 Her crowded ports, her fields in plenty drest,
 Bless the glad merchant, and th' industrious swain.

Do blooming youths in battle fall?
 True to their fame the funeral urn we raise
 And thousands, at the glorious call,
 Aspire to equal praise.

Antistrophe.

Thee, Glory, thee through climes unknown
 Th' adventurous chief with zeal pursues,
 And fame brings back from ev'ry zone
 Fresh subjects for the British muse.
 Tremendous as th' ill-omen'd bird
 To frighted France thy voice was heard
 From Minden's echoing towers:
 O'er Biscay's roar thy voice prevail'd:
 And at thy word the rocks we scaled,
 And Canada is ours.
 O potent queen of ev'ry breast,
 Which aims at praise by virtuous deeds,
 Where'er thy influence shines confest
 The hero acts, the event succeeds.
 But ah, must glory only bear,
 Bellona like, the vengeful spear?
 To fill her mighty mind?
 Must bulwarks fall, and cities flame,
 And is her amplest field of fame
 The miseries of mankind?
 On ruins piled, on ruins must she rise,
 And lend her rays to gild her fatal throne:
 Must the mild power who melts in vernal skies,
 By thunders only make his godhead known?
 No, be the omen far away,
 From yonder pregnant cloud a kinder gleam,
 Tho' faintly struggling into day,
 Portends a happier theme.

Epode.

And who is he, of regal mien,
 Reclined on Albion's golden fleece,
 Whose polish'd brow, and eye serene,
 Proclaim him elder-born of peace?
 Another George! ye winds convey
 Th' auspicious name from pole to pole:
 Thames, catch the sound, and tell the subject sea
 Beneath whose sway its waters roll,

The hoary monarch of the deep
 Who spoth'd its murmurs with a father's care,
 Doth now eternal sabbath keep,
 And leaves his trident to his blooming heir.
 O, if the Muse, aright divine,

Fair Peace shall bless his opening reign,
 And through its splendid progress shine
 With every art to grace her train,
 The wreaths, so late by glory won,
 Shall weave their foliage round his throne,

'Till kings abash'd, shall tremble to be foes,
 And Albion's dreaded strength secure the world's repose.

On the 6th of January his majesty went to the Chapel Royal, and offered gold, myrrh, and frankincense, as usual. On account of the mourning, there was no playing at hazard at night, nor any ball.

His majesty was at this time pleased to declare, by an order in council, that his servants should have and enjoy all ancient rights, privileges, and liberties; and that none of his servants in ordinary, with fee, should be obliged to bear any public office, serve on juries or inquests, or be subjected to any mulct or fine for not submitting thereunto, agreeably to the practice of his majesty's royal predecessor.

Amongst the many laudable dispositions which his majesty manifested on his immediate accession to the throne, a desire to maintain the public peace was particularly apparent; he was well aware, that the extraordinary degree of acrimony which distinguished the transactions of the two principal contending political parties, had in several quarters engendered a spirit of discontent, which broke out on all occasions, into the most violent clamour, tending to an open breach of the public peace, and which if not restrained by the wholesome energy of the laws, might eventually terminate in riot and rebellion. He had himself frequently experienced the scurrilous abuse of

a party mob, and was often obliged to listen to the most indecorous expressions uttered against an individual, whom he had every reason to love and revere, but panoplied as he was by the laws of the country, he rested his support on them; and, with the firm resolution of maintaining a strict adherence to them himself, he was equally disposed to punish those, who infringed them, as he was those, who abused the power with which he had invested them. A particular instance of this displayed itself in the early part of January, 1761. Colonel Hale, who commanded a regiment of light dragoons, quartered at Haddington, Musselburg, &c., with some other officers of the same regiment, assaulted a toll-gatherer at Ravenshaugh toll-bar, for which they were tried before the court of session, and fined. The king, on hearing of the circumstance, displayed his strict regard to the preservation of our laws and liberties in a very conspicuous manner; lord Barrington, in a letter to lord Beauchamp, says: "The king has commanded me to acquaint your lordship, that he is highly displeased at the officers who have been concerned in this affair. As the officers have already satisfied the laws of the country, by their submission unto the sentence of the court of justiciary, the king does not think fit to bring them to a second trial by a court martial; but it is his majesty's pleasure, that your lordship reprimand them as officers, in his majesty's name, and in the strongest terms, for this breach of the military discipline, as well as of civil duties; and that you should recommend it to them for the future, by a prudent and inoffensive demeanour, to regain the good opinion and confidence of their fellow-citizens, as the surest means of restoring themselves to his majesty's favour, who will always be particularly offended whenever the public peace is disturbed, and the laws insulted,

by those whom his majesty has honoured with his commission for the protection of both."

Amongst the various charges which were brought against lord Bute, that of testifying on all occasions a strong partiality to his countrymen, was not one of the least, and although many have attempted it, no one has been able wholly to rebut it; on the contrary, every day disclosed some new favour or grant conferred on his countrymen, and sometimes on occasions, in which his partiality would have been "more honoured in the breach than the observance." One case in particular occurred at this time, which was traced to the influence of lord Bute, and which added not a little to his unpopularity, and to an increase of disaffection towards the king. By the death of a Scots nobleman, who died as a Roman catholic priest, the title descended to a man-cook, then living with a general officer in England, who, in regard to his cook's dignity, could not think of employing him any longer in that station, but very generously raised a subscription for his support. This affair was represented to his majesty, who ordered the *ci-devant* cook a pension of 200*l.* per annum. A humorous poem appeared on this occasion, entitled, "A Cook's Travels from Scotland to London without a Shoe, and he finds a *Boot* with 200*l.* a year in it."

The character of our late sovereign is often elicited in the flippant remarks of Horace Walpole, in his celebrated letters; in one of which he thus speaks of him, "The new reign dates with great propriety and decency, the civilest letter to princess Emily; the greatest kindness to the duke; the utmost respect to the dead body; no changes to be made but those absolutely necessary, as the household, &c., and what some will think the most unnecessary in

the representative of power." He further adds, "There is great dignity and grace in the king's manner; I don't say this like my dear madame de Sevigné, because he was civil to me; but the part is well acted. The young king has all the appearance of being amiable; there is great grace to temper much dignity and good-nature, which breaks out on all occasions." In another letter he says, "The city, however, have a mind to be out of humour; a paper has been fixed on the royal exchange with these words, 'No petticoat government! no Scotch minister! no Lord George Sackville!' two hints totally unfounded, and the other scarce true. No petticoat ever governed less; it is left at Leicester-house. For the king himself, he seems all good nature, and wishing to satisfy every body; all his speeches are obliging. I saw him on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel; sits with dignity and reads his answers to addresses well." Speaking of the king's wish to conciliate all parties, being influenced by a true love of his country, Walpole says, "It is unpardonable to put an end to all faction, when it is not for faction's purposes. When the last ——— could be beloved, a young man with a good heart has little chance of being so. Moreover I have a maxim. that the extinction of party is the origin of faction."

One of the first steps which his majesty took on his accession, was the regulation of his household, for he strongly suspected that some very gross impositions were practised in it;

and, there were many living at the time who could have informed his majesty, that his suspicions were well founded. He, however, instituted the most strict inquiries into every department, and by those means it was currently affirmed, that he occasioned a saving of not less than 100,000*l.* per annum. On examining into an immoderate charge for fruit, his majesty asked, how the produce of the royal garden was disposed of? It was answered, that the fruit was not yet come to maturity, and that when it was, it had been usual to distribute it in presents. "Let me not then see any more at my table," said the king, "till my own gardens will produce it in perfection, and then let me have the privilege which every gentleman in the kingdom enjoys, of partaking of my own, instead of buying from others."

On the 20th of January his majesty went to the house of peers, and gave the royal assent to several acts, amongst which, was one for granting to his majesty an additional duty upon strong beer and ale, and for further encouraging their exportation*.

This was the most unpopular measure of the early part of his majesty's reign, and exposed him, whenever he presented himself in public, to the rude insults of the populace. This tax, with many other noxious measures originated with lord Bute, and it was said at the time, that the people were not only obliged to pay most dearly for his measures, but that he would not allow them to have their own measures full,

* By this beer act, which took place the 24th of January, an additional duty of 3*s.* per barrel was laid on all beer or ale, above 6*s.* the barrel, brewed for sale in England. A proportionable duty was to be paid for every barrel of two-penny ale, brewed for sale in Scotland. Beer brewed before the said 24th of January, if any time thereafter mixed with any fresh guile or brewing, is to pay the additional duty. A drawback of 8*s.* a barrel was to be allowed by the commissioners of excise, on all beer and ale brewed after the said 24th of January, and exported to foreign parts; deducting 3*d.* a ton for charges of the officers. Even a bounty of 1*s.* a barrel was to be paid by the commissioners of excise, on all strong beer and ale exported, for which duties had been paid, brewed after the said 24th of January, from malted corn, when barley was at 24*s.* a quarter or under.

without making them pay for it also. A few days after the passing of this act, his majesty attended the theatre, when he was received with the most discordant cries of "No beer tax,"—"No Bute,"—"No Scotch minister," and other opprobrious expressions. This unexpected reception which his majesty met with, disconcerted Bute not a little, and he privately expressed his dissatisfaction to Doddington. In the diary of the latter is the following passage, and, as there is much in it which brings to light the factious intrigues of that momentous era, which so deeply involved the honour of the sovereign, it becomes a valuable document towards unravelling the clue to the political changes which appeared doomed to distract the councils of the young and inexperienced monarch.

Doddington's Diary, page 384.—Lord Bute came, and was dissatisfied with the clamour about the beer at the play-house, the evening on which the king was there. I mentioned to him the intelligence which I had just received, that Mr. Pitt had told Mr. Beckford, last Friday, that all was over, and he would have no more to do. He replied, that he did not believe it. He had not seen Mr. Pitt this fortnight, but had seen Mr. Beckford lately, who dropping in conversation, that he wished to see the king his own minister; he (lord Bute) replied, that his great friend Mr. Pitt did not desire to see the king his own minister, and he might tell him so, if he pleased; for that it was very indifferent to him (Bute) if every word he said was carried to Mr. Pitt. I asked his lordship, if he knew why the parliament was kept on so long;

he said, he thought it was better for him, as his friends had the more time to look about them, and that the duke of Newcastle was desirous to have it end. I then asked, if he had settled the new parliament with the duke; he replied, he had not seen his grace for some days, but supposed he should soon; and he would then bring his list with him. That what were absolutely the king's boroughs, *the king would name to*, but where the crown had only an influence, as by the customs, excise, &c., he could not be refused the disposition (disposal) of it while he staid in. That he had told Anson, that room must be made for lord Parker, who replied, that all was engaged, and that he (Bute) said, What! my lord! the king's admiralty-boroughs full, and the king not acquainted with it! That Anson seemed quite disconcerted, and knew not what to say. His lordship was not for pushing them yet, for if the peace was a bad one, as it must be, they would certainly proclaim, that it was owing to their dismission, because they were not suffered to bring the great work to a happy conclusion, to whom the glorious successes, which had hitherto attended their conducting it, were entirely to be attributed. In short, he seemed to think that nobody could stand such a peace as must be made upon the present system, but those who had brought us into that system, and were the authors of it.

Such were the factious intrigues of the ruling politicians of the day, and the effects of which displayed themselves in a short time, to the great detriment of the interests of the country.

In the month of February, the period commenced, which had been fixed upon for the second mourning for George II.; and, although it must be allowed that decorum and propriety require a general mourning on the demise of

The profits arising from this act, supposing the consumption to have been (which is a very moderate computation, if the number of people in England and Wales be considered) 2,000,000 quarts per diem, will be as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
To the government.....	760416	13	4
From which must be deducted for the payment of the new loan.....	488250	00	0
There would remain annually	272166	13	4
To the brewer, on advancing 2s. the butt	506934	} per Annum.	
To the publican	253472		
Per day at 2,000,000 quarts, at one farthing.....	2083	06	8

a sovereign, yet, on the other hand, it must be admitted, that a protracted duration of it, to the full extent of the term, is attended with particular injury to the trading community. Representations to this effect were made to his majesty, and with the most tender regard to the interests of the working part of his subjects, he was graciously pleased to abridge the usual duration of that ceremony.

The private attachments of the king now became the subject of general conversation. His affections appeared to be fixed too firmly to be weakened or destroyed by human art or invention; and no doubt existed of the intentions of his majesty to remove those state forms which proved such formidable obstacles to the consummation of his union with the daughter of a subject. We have indeed but few instances in the English history of the marriages of our sovereigns with natives; but on the other hand, the greatest disasters which befel the country have arisen from their marriage with foreigners. We have only to revert to the marriages of Edward II., Richard II., Henry VI., Charles I., &c., to adduce the most incontestable proofs of the truth of this observation; but it is an undoubted fact, that the exclusion of natives from their sovereign's bed is founded on a traditional error, or a base prejudice*. Nevertheless, great as might have been the existing prejudice at the time to a union of our sovereign with a native, it is certain, that the clamour which was raised against it, proceeded more from family pride and political intrigue, than from any actual objection to the individual who had so completely

enchained the affections of our sovereign. The alarm was industriously spread throughout the country, of the danger to which it was exposed from a spurious offspring of the sovereign; the extent of his amours was investigated in the most inquisitorial manner; the circumstance of his being a father was bruited abroad as corroborative of the pressing necessity of an immediate union with some foreign princess; the estimate of the man was lost in that of the king; and an absence of all passion and a total callousness to the irresistible effects of feminine beauty were confidently expected to form a part of the character of a sovereign at the age of twenty-two. He was to be supposed invulnerable to the temptations which assailed him in the most powerful and enticing shapes, and to reject with loathing all those opportunities which offered themselves to take him captive in the chains of pleasure. In the full possession of the powers of enjoyment, he was supposed to avoid the allurements of fascinating beauty; and not only to have resisted them in one or two particulars, but in their whole conflux, and in all their bewitching variety, and at that very age when indulgence seems generally to claim an excuse. The pen of satire was employed to hold up to ridicule the amours of the sovereign, and future ages will scarcely credit it, that wit could prostitute herself so far, as to level her shafts upon such a prince with a virulence, which vice only could deserve. The most scurrilous lampoons issued daily from the corrupted press, and the dexterity which distinguished their

* A cotemporary writer has insinuated, that one of the causes of rejection of a princess of the house of Saxe-Gotha as a wife to our late monarch was the prevalence of a constitutional disease in that family. It is a misfortune, however, that the existence of this disease was not discovered by the sapient physicians of the eighteenth century, before a princess of that house was selected to be the mother of our late sovereign; but the present is the age of discovery, and it is now ascertained by some pseudo politicians, that the only benefit which accrues to this country from foreign alliances, is the importation of some of the worst blood on the continent.

composition, could only be equalled by the eagerness with which they were bought. These compositions, from the want of justifiable grounds for sarcasm have extracted their subject of irony from natural peculiarities of manner, and indulged upon them with as much sportive malignity as if they had been the most degenerate crimes.

Even particular studies and favourite employments, domestic regulations and social attachments; modes of expression which are as natural to us as the very turn of our countenance, and even those qualities which are connected with sterling virtue, were made the subject of sarcasm, merely because they were found in a palace.

Unprincipled libertines, to whom talents were vouchsafed for a better purpose, endeavoured to alienate the minds of the people from their sovereign by misrepresenting his amiable virtues into infirmities; and associating with the lowest attendants of the great, they possessed themselves of the fabrications of ingratitude to asperse in strains of humour, superior excellence. It should be considered that a primary step towards infusing rebellious principles into the minds of men is to inspire them with contempt for their governors. When they are once brought to view their superiors in a ridiculous light, their attachment to them will be of a very flimsy texture, and they become ready tools for licentious and ambitious men to make use of in accomplishing revolutionary designs. Let, however, the candid and observant mind look steadily upon George III. on his accession; let him raise up, in comparison, all the monarchs whom history has recorded; let him then scrutinize the private and public demeanour of the illustrious object before him; and, having considered that he was but a man, his dispositions must be warped and wayward

in the extreme, if he could suffer an irreverential idea to hold possession of him.

But, whatever might have been the private conduct of his majesty, and however just the foundation might have been for the unanimous wish that the nation manifested, that a princess might be selected, worthy in all points of sharing the throne and bed of one of the first monarchs of the universe; yet it is certain, that the king at this period looked with indifference, if not with a positive dislike, to every advance which was made towards a state marriage, but little did he suspect that a countryman of lord Bute's, general Graeme, was then canvassing the German courts, and, in the character of a private gentleman, was playing lotto with the ladies of one court, and drinking the aperient waters with the antiquated dames of another, merely to hear the tittle-tattle of the day, respecting the positive or negative virtues, the absence or the existence of personal charms, which at that time distinguished the marriageable princesses of the numerous royal, ducal, or princely families of Protestant Germany. It was, however, not only the ardent attachment which his majesty entertained for another individual, which averted his thoughts for a time from his marriage; but all the hours which were not immediately dedicated to relaxation, or to social intercourse, were absorbed in his attention to state affairs, rendered complex and intricate by the continual intrigues of the contending factions, and which, with the best disposition to the interests of his kingdom, he found he could not reduce to a state of harmony and mutual co-operation without discarding from his presence and his favour those individuals to whom he considered himself attached by ties of gratitude and personal esteem.

The popularity of the king had suffered ma-

terially from the injudicious tax on beer and ale, but it was, in a degree, regained by his highly constitutional conduct towards the judges, who, by an act passed soon after the revolution, held their seats by the tenure of *Durante bene placito*, "During our (the king's) pleasure," which tenure, however, was considered with great justice to affect their independence; and his majesty therefore resolved, that they should hold them in future by that of *Quam diu se bene gesserit*, or as long as they conducted themselves properly.

On the 3rd of March his majesty went to the House of Peers, and having given the royal assent to about forty private and public acts, he delivered the following speech to both houses, recommending a law for making the commissions of the judges perpetual during their good behaviour, notwithstanding any future demise of the crown.

My lords and gentlemen,

Upon granting new commissions to the judges, the present state of their offices fell naturally under consideration.

In consequence of the act passed in the reign of my late glorious predecessor king William III., for settling the succession of the crown in my family, their commissions have been made during their good behaviour; but, notwithstanding that wise provision, their offices have determined upon the demise of the crown, or at the expiration of six months afterwards, in every instance of that nature, which has happened.

I look upon the independency and uprightness of the judges of the land, as essential to the impartial administration of justice; as one of the best securities to the rights and liberties of my loving subjects; and, as most conducive to the honour of the crown; and, I come now to recommend this interesting object to the consideration of parliament, in order that such farther provisions may be made for securing the judges in the enjoyment of their offices, during their good behaviour, notwithstanding any such demise, as shall be most expedient.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must desire of you, in particular, that I may be enabled to grant, and establish, upon the judges, salaries as I shall think proper, so as to be absolutely secured to them, during the continuance of their commissions.

My lords and gentlemen,

I have nothing to add, but my thanks for the great unanimity and application with which you have hitherto carried on the public business; and to desire you to proceed with the same good disposition, and with such despatch, that this session may soon be brought to a happy conclusion.

To this speech the lords made the following address:

Most gracious sovereign,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, in parliament assembled, return your majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The tender concern which your majesty is pleased to express for the rights and liberties of your people, and for the impartial administration of justice, fills our minds with the sincerest gratitude. We look upon your wise and just sentiments, concerning the independency and uprightness of the judges of the land, as the strongest proof of what your majesty has formerly declared to us in words the most affectionate that ever came from the throne, that the civil and religious rights of your subjects are equally dear to you with the most valuable of your royal prerogatives. At the same time, nothing can be a nobler instance of your true greatness of mind, than to esteem these principles, as they truly are, the most conducive to the honour of the crown.

We will not fail to take into our consideration this important object of the continuance of the judges, notwithstanding any demise of the crown; and to do every thing, on our part, to make your majesty's public-spirited intentions effectual: happy in having an opportunity to do this by your majesty's free and voluntary recommendation; and forming the most ardent vows, that the event, wherein the effect of such a provision will be experienced, may by the goodness of Providence to these kingdoms, be removed for a long course of years.

Permit us, on this occasion, to renew to your majesty

the most unfeigned assurances of our inviolable duty and affection; and to express our thankful acknowledgments for your gracious approbation of our proceedings hitherto. Nothing can equal our zeal for your majesty's support; nor shall any thing be wanting that depends upon us, to bring this session to a speedy and happy conclusion, answerable to your majesty's just expectations.

His majesty's most gracious answer.

My lords,

I thank you for this very dutiful, grateful, and unanimous address. I am very glad, that what I have laid before you, gives you so much satisfaction.

The commons resolved likewise, *nemine contradicente*,

That an humble address be presented to his majesty, to return his majesty the most humble thanks of this house, for his most gracious speech from the throne.

To express the grateful sense which this house has of his majesty's attention to an object so interesting to his people as the impartial administration of justice, and the integrity and independency of the judges of the land; and to assure his majesty, that his faithful commons see, with joy and veneration, the warm regard and concern, which animate his royal breast, for the security, laws, liberties, and properties, of his subjects, and that this house will immediately proceed upon the important work, recommended by his majesty with such tender care of his people; and, will enable his majesty to establish the salaries of the judges, in so permanent a manner, that the same may be enjoyed, during the continuance of their commissions.

To return his majesty the sincere acknowledgments of this house, for his gracious acceptance of the services of

his faithful commons, and to assure his majesty, that they will proceed with unanimity and despatch to finish the remaining business of this session of parliament.

On the 4th of March this address was presented, to which his majesty was pleased to give this most gracious answer.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for this dutiful and unanimous address. The sense you express of my sincere intention to do what is for the good of my people, gives me the highest satisfaction.

On the following day, the judges waited on his majesty with their address upon this occasion, and were most graciously received; and on the 5th the House of Commons came to the following resolutions:

That provision be made for continuing the commission of judges, notwithstanding the demise of his majesty, or of any of his heirs or successors.

That his majesty shall be enabled to grant and establish the salaries of judges in such a manner as to be absolutely secured to them during the continuance of their commissions; and, that such part of the salaries of judges as is now payable out of the yearly rent, or sum, granted for the support of his majesty's household, and for the honour and dignity of the crown, be, from and after the demise of his present majesty, charged upon, and payable out of, all, and any such duties and revenues granted for the uses of his majesty's civil government, as shall subsist after the demise of his majesty, or any of his heirs and successors; and a bill, pursuant to those resolutions, was ordered to be prepared immediately*.

* In the history of our customs, aids, subsidies, national debts, and taxes, from William the Conqueror, to the year 1761, part iv., where the author is treating of the act 32 George II. For augmenting the salaries of the judges, we meet with the following curious piece of antiquity:

"Here we cannot help taking notice of a remarkable petition, 18 Henry VI. [A. D. 1430.] Rot. 27. of the judges of the king's bench and common pleas, the justices of assize, the king's serjeant, and attorney, (there was no solicitor-general till Edward IV's. time,) complaining of the lord-treasurer Kenwaldmershe, that he had not paid them their salaries, and given them their robes and usual fees. Upon which they desired that the clerk of the hanaper might pay them out of the first money that came into his hands, and that the collectors and receivers of the great and petty customs, in the ports of London, Bristol, and Kingston-upon-Hull, may have like power, and be obliged to pay them, without any delay or respite, twice a-year, at Easter and Michaelmas, their respective salaries; and, that they may have money for their robes twice

This step, on the part of his majesty, was however considered by several of the discerning part of the nation, as a mere state trick and a poor attempt at popularity. In Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, is recorded the following opinion of that colossus of literature, regarding this concession to the people, but it must be borne in memory, that lord Bute had not then given the doctor a pension.

Lord Bute, though a very honourable man—a man who merits well—a man who had his head full of prerogative, was a mere theoretical statesman—a book minister, and thought this country could be governed by the interest of the crown alone. Then, sir, he gave up a great deal. He advised the king to agree that the judges should hold their places for life, instead of losing them at the accession of a new king. Lord Bute, I suppose, thought to make the king popular by this concession, but the people never minded it, and it was a most impolitic measure. There is no reason why a judge should hold his office for life, more than any other person in public trust. A judge may be partial otherwise than to the crown; we have seen judges partial to the populace; a judge may become corrupt, and yet there may not be legal evidence against him. A judge may grow froward from age. A judge may grow unfit for his office in many ways. It was desirable that there should be a possibility of being delivered from him by a new king. That is now done by an act of parliament *ex gratia* of the crown. Lord Bute advised the king to give up a very large sum of money; for which nobody thanked him*. It was of consequence

to the king, but nothing to the public, among whom it was divided. When I say lord Bute advised, I mean that such acts were done, when he was minister, and we are to suppose that he advised them. Lord Bute shewed an undue partiality to Scotchmen. He turned out Dr. Nichols, a very eminent man, from being physician to the king, to make room for one of his countrymen, a man very low in his profession. He had ***** and **** to go on errands for him. He had occasion for people to go on errands for him, but he should not have had Scotchmen, and certainly he should not have suffered them to have access to him before the first people in England.

It has been stated by certain historians, that his majesty, shortly after his accession to the throne, manifested a particular regard for the proper encouragement of literature in the country, and the several pensions which were bestowed on literary men, give some colour of truth to the statement: but particular facts, which have been substantiated without even one attempt at refutation, compel us to detract from the merit awarded to his majesty in having bestowed his patronage so profusely on some of the leading literary characters of his age. It arose in fact from nothing more nor less than the influence of lord Bute, and his desire to provide for his countrymen, who, at that time, shone as stars of no inconsiderable magnitude in the literary hemisphere. This remark may appear

a-year, at Christmas and Whitsuntide, according to custom. But the collectors were not to be charged with the payment of these wages, till the clerk of the hanaper had been examined by the lord chancellor, whether he had money to pay the several sums charged on his receipt. This petition was confirmed in parliament, and accordingly writs issued to the treasurer and chamberlains of the exchequer, to know what were the judges' salaries; who returned, that they had usually paid the two chief justices forty pounds a-year each, and the other judges forty marks: that the justices of assize and king's serjeants had twenty pounds a-year, and the attorney-general ten pounds; and these sums were accordingly paid them."

* This alludes to the money arising from the property of the prizes taken before the declaration of war, which were given to his majesty by the peace of Paris, and amounted to upwards of 700,000*l.*, and from the lands in the ceded islands which were estimated at 200,000*l.* more. Surely there was a noble munificence in this gift from a monarch to his people. And let it be remembered that during lord Bute's administration, the king was pleased to give up the hereditary revenue of the crown, and to accept, instead of them, of the limited sum of 800,000*l.*; upon which Blackstone observes, that "The hereditary revenues, being put under the same management as the other branches of the public patrimony will produce more, and be better collected than heretofore, and the public is a gainer of upwards of 100,000*l.* per annum by this disinterested bounty of his majesty."

invidious, but we shall be able to prove that not a single Englishman was pensioned with the exception of Dr. Johnson; whilst, on the other hand, the most handsome grants were bestowed on Scotchmen for services which they had rendered, or for those, which they were to render. The first literary character whom lord Bute honoured with the king's patronage, and whom he had a particular wish to enlist in his band of authors, who by their talents could persuade the nation that a halo of political science and legislative wisdom surrounded the right honourable John earl of Bute, of which he was to be considered as the effulgent nucleus, was Dr. Robertson, the celebrated historian. It is far from our wish to detract from the merit of that erudite scholar, nor to question his claim as a literary man to any grant which the crown might be disposed to bestow on the sons of genius, but to those who have studiously examined the system of national partiality which distinguished the era of his late majesty's accession, it cannot remain for a moment enveloped in doubt that the historian of America was indebted for his pension more to the national predilection of his patron, than to his own splendid talents, or to the extent of his historical researches; indeed, the very manner in which he was informed of his having attracted the attention of his majesty, and of his gracious disposition towards him, partook so much of the circuitous and the doubtful, that no surprise need be excited at the apparently indifferent manner in which the doctor received the communication. The levees of my lord Bute were at this time crowded with the literati of the age; he knew their importance, he knew the power of the press over the public opinion,

and he was himself well convinced that he stood in much need of all the aid which the most splendid talents could give him, not only to check the growth of his own unpopularity, but also to secure his monarch from that excess of popular resentment, to which his own ill-advised and impolitic actions had exposed him. He was also well aware that he had writers on the opposite side, who were gifted with the most superior talents; and who had the effrontery not only to dive deeper into the affairs of the court, than was pleasing to him, but who had also the boldness to expose and hold up to public indignation the measures which he had recommended. This case is by no means an isolated one, in which lord Bute, under the high sanction of his majesty's name, promoted his own views; and it were to be wished, that every case bore the same complexion, and that his majesty's name had been only used on an occasion so laudable as that of the patronage of genius.

The following brief recital of this transaction will fully demonstrate that the patronage of Robertson commenced under the auspices of lord Bute; and that on his resignation, the doctor and his history of England were forgotten, until the restoration of lord Bute to power in 1763, when he was appointed historiographer to the king*, with a salary for life of 200*l.* per annum. It is, however, necessary to remark, that although Dr. Robertson was of the church of Scotland, yet in 1761 he was appointed one of the chaplains to his majesty; and at the same time, his friend John Home, who had been obliged to resign his cure for the heinous crime of being the author of the tragedy of Douglas, also received from his majesty a pension of 300*l.* per annum.

* This office was revived for the express purpose of befriending the doctor. The last person who held it was Mr. David Crawford, of Drumsey, by a commission from queen Anne in 1704, with a salary of 40*l.* per annum.

After the publication of the *History of Scotland*, Dr. Robertson consulted his literary friends on the choice of a subject for his next work. It was generally known, that he had the most tempting offers from the publishers, and it was whispered that the most confident assurances were made to him of the countenance of government. In particular, Dr. John Blair, also a Scotchman, and prebendary of Westminster, author of the *Chronology and History of the World*, urged him to engage in it; and lord Cathcart, another Scotchman, also wrote to the doctor, that the earl of Bute had expressed to him his majesty's wish to see a history of England from the pen of Dr. Robertson; and that every source of information which government could command would be open to him, and encouragement given in proportion to the labour and extent of so great an undertaking. His lordship, in order to overcome the doctor's scruples, pointed out likewise the difference in the manner and style of two writers like him and Mr. Hume, and argued that their works could not interfere, as one author had so much the start of the other in point of time. The doctor expressed an inclination to undertake it, and, in his letters to his friends, to copy which would carry us too far into the field of digression, explained himself further, but the reason why he did not prosecute his design has not yet been communicated to the world, but it was entirely owing to the resignation of lord Bute, with whose resignation ceased the patronage of his majesty for a limited period.

The following is an extract from an hitherto unpublished letter of lord Bute to a noble earl in Scotland, dated in February, 1761*.

* * * * * I am beset with a host of scribblers, and I must acknowledge that I can discern great talent in some of their productions. The fire must not be allowed to spread too far, or I know not where its devastations will end. I am at a loss at present how to stem the tide of unpopularity which sets in at present so strongly against the court party. The king is much disposed at times to break out very violently in his objections to certain measures, but I hope I shall succeed eventually * * * *

Pitt got the better of me in the speech which his majesty delivered from the throne, in which, as you will have read, he is made to declare, that he is determined to carry on the war with vigour. We have it now in agitation to make him say quite the contrary, for we are resolved to have a peace * * * * *

I am informed of a work which is now in the press, entitled *Le Montagnard Parvenu*, of which I contrive to obtain the sheets as they are printed. The author knows more than I wish him to know; he must have been oftener behind the curtain than I suspected; it must be met by corresponding talent; the king must not see it.

* * * * * I am, however, by no means without literary talent on my side; most of our best authors are wholly devoted to me, and I have laid the foundation for gaining Robertson, by employing him for the king, in writing the history of England; he must be pensioned.

That part of the above letter which treats of the scheme which was in agitation to make his majesty deny the sentiments which he had publicly expressed in his speech from the throne, and thereby lay him open to the stigma of the grossest inconsistency, is strongly cor-

* I beg leave thus publicly to express my sincere thanks to Archibald Inglis, esq. of Edinburgh, a distant relative of the Bute family, for the liberal manner in which he granted me permission to copy those parts of the letter which had an immediate bearing to this epoch of his majesty's life. I consider the liberality to be more conspicuous, as I candidly stated to Mr. Inglis, that I was by no means friendly to the line of politics which his noble relative pursued, nor to the national partialities which he manifested, to the total neglect of English genius. The chasms in the letter contain passages which, had I inserted, I should have grossly abused the confidence which was so handsomely reposed in me.

roborated by the following passage from the *Diary of Doddington*, page 375.

Lord Bute came and said, he was sure that the ministry had some glimpse of getting off our system, by setting up that of abandoning Hanover, and of supplying the money to distress France into a peace; that they would, by their popularity, force this measure upon the king, who must consequently lose a great deal of his own. I told him, as the truth was, that this measure was the only sound one to get out of the war. That I had yesterday began to put my thoughts upon it into writing, to persuade him to obtain powers of the king to carry it into execution. That my only doubt was, whether the new parliament should not be suffered to meet, only to declare in the speech, that his majesty found himself involved in this war, to which he had no ways contributed. That, seeing the bent of the nation so violent, he had acquiesced in it without approving of it, persuaded that they would soon feel, if they did not see their error; that he was convinced, that the present method of defending Hanover would ruin this country without defending that; and he would therefore no longer expose his regal dominions to such hardships for fruitless attempts to protect his electoral, but would leave them in the hands of his enemies, and apply the expense to force them to a reasonable peace, by means more probable and proper to obtain that end.

The period was now fast approaching, when the effect of these mischievous and dangerous councils was to display itself; and every day added some combustible to the mine, which was charging in secret to explode with a devastating force over the fairest prospects of the country. Incredible indeed was the extent to which the rancour of party spirit carried its machinations, involving the dignity, the character, the integrity, nay, even the very existence of the monarch. England, at the accession of George III., may be said to have only just re-

covered itself from the calamities of a civil war, brought about by the pretensions of the house of Stuart to the throne: and, although the storm of rebellion had ceased, the swell of the waves had not yet entirely subsided. The succession of the house of Brunswick to the throne of Great Britain had indeed been confirmed*, but the adherents of the house of Stuart were yet numerous, and were always on the alert to seize every opportunity of testifying their repugnance to the established government. On the other hand, every thing which had a relation to the house of Stuart was regarded with the most jealous dispositions; and it was certainly no small misfortune to the country, that lord Bute was a branch of the proscribed family. The very name of Stuart was a term of reproach, it carried with it a most harsh and unmusical sound; and, to the whig party, it was the pass-word for every thing that was treasonable and rebellious. When these premises are considered, some clue presents itself to the most serious charge, which was at this period brought against the sovereign, being nothing more nor less, than that, in conjunction with his illustrious mother and lord Bute, he had it in contemplation to restore the crown of Great Britain to the Stuarts, and to retire to his electoral dominions in Germany. This certainly was one of the greatest solecisms which the political world at this time presented to the consideration of the impartial observer; but it had its effects, terrible and overwhelming in their nature, and which, like the lava bursting from the crater of a Vesuvius or an Etna, carried ruin and devastation in its course. The whigs, to their discredit be it

* It is a singular but well-attested fact, that the act for the succession of the house of Brunswick to the throne of Great Britain, which passed in the reign of queen Anne, was carried by a majority of only *one* vote; Joseph Paice, Esq., M. P. for Lyme in Dorsetshire, giving the casting vote. On this occasion her majesty caused a number of medals to be struck, with a suitable inscription, one of which was presented to each of the members who had voted in favour of it.

said, fostered the slanderous report, and calumny, with its hideous brood, preyed on the vitals of the purest reputation of the country. It is certain, that the young monarch testified a particular attachment to his father's friends; and it is by no means an easy task for a prince of sensibility to throw off the yoke of a connexion to which he has been accustomed for years, often from his entrance into youth, sometimes from his very infancy. Gratitude seems to bind him to those with whom he has spent the first years of his dawning reason. When he arrives at maturity, and begins to reflect for himself, his experience is too uncertain to discover the real motives which attach to him those attendants of every denomination, who profess so much devotion to him. As adulation and hypocrisy are practices of which he knows not yet the full power and extent, he naturally hesitates in his judgement of persons. Though the theories he may have been taught in the course of his education, have warned him against flattery and deceit, yet the discovery of flatterers and deceivers is left entirely to himself; and, whatever his native capacity may be, it is long before he is able to judge of the worth and demerits of men. But to make this excess of filial regard to his father's friends a handle for accusing the sovereign himself, the actual head of the house of Hanover, of being through rank stupidity, (for there can be no other way of accounting for it,) concerned in a plot with Jacobites to bring in the house of Stuart, to the dethronement of himself and family, is such a glaring proof of the most abandoned party rage, as could not be broached by any, who did not take the people to be at least as stupid as such a charge supposes the sovereign to be. To which absurdity, which is in fact rather to be spurned with scorn and ridicule, than to be

seriously treated, there was added the horror of joining the king's own mother in the treasonable conspiracy at once against a nation, to which so numerous an issue as hers must have abundantly and exclusively naturalized her affection, and against a son at that moment cruelly abused for an excess of filial reverence to her, as if he had too much sunk the king in the son. That such an execrable plot was invented cannot admit of a doubt; but the wonder is, that there could be found either amongst the lowest of the human race in rank or in intellect, any who could give credence to such a vile fabrication; or that there were any among the higher classes of life, of so degenerate, so ignoble a disposition, so lost to all sensibility of honour, or of respect to their own birth, or even of common humanity, that for the sake of deriving a miserable momentary advantage to their party from such an impression on a deceived populace, could foment or connive at it, or even stand by with unconcern, if not with the smirk of secret pleasure, and see the king and his mother treated in his own capital with such cruelty, such brutal indignities, as any foreign prince, his most mortal enemy and at actual war with him, would, from a principle of humanity, hold it a dishonour to himself to suffer in his dominions.

In regard to the ministers of this eventful period, they even had not justice done them; the liberality of the English people appeared to be extinguished in the wild rage of party spirit, and that which is universally awarded even to the veriest malefactor, was publicly denied them. They were, comparatively speaking, shut out of the pale of the law, and were delivered up to be worried by an infuriated people; the honour of the first family of the kingdom, not being a private one, was impeached; that family, in which the constitution

has centred the representation of the national dignity was publicly insulted; the fiends of calumny dogged them whithersoever they went; and the country exhibited the afflicting spectacle of the first individual of the kingdom standing as the mark at which all the hirelings of faction was to direct their poisoned shafts. The storm was, however, at this period only gathering; the dispassionate observer beheld the clouds just rising on the horizon, and he trembled for the moment when with its accumulated fury it would burst upon the devoted country.

But it was not only in the metropolis and at the seat of government that the disaffection of the people exhibited itself; amongst the obnoxious measures which had lately been adopted by the government, and which the exigency of the times in a degree demanded, was the militia act. In some parts of the country the most violent opposition was shown to its enforcement, and in others, it amounted to a defiance very little short of rebellion. We shall only notice the proceedings of one county, namely Northumberland; and the following description will illustrate the dreadful excess to which the opposition was carried. It is contained in a letter dated Hexham, March 9, 1761:

The deputy lieutenants and justices held their meeting here this day about the militia; and, as many of the fellows who lately made a disturbance at Newcastle threatened to be here, four companies of the Yorkshire militia came to town last night to prevent any mischief. This morning thousands came into the town in the most desperate manner. We heard them say as they went by the windows, that they did not regard the militia; they were forty of them to one soldier, and if they dared to fire they would not leave a man of them alive. About ten the gentlemen were conducted by the militia from the Globe to the Moot-hall, and the men were drawn up before the gate, to prevent any of the mob going into the hall. The major told them all their complaints

should be heard if they would be peaceable, and they remained pretty orderly till a large body of pitmen came into the town about 12 o'clock, who were resolved to break through to the hall. The commanding-officer was very patient for a long time, even though one of the pitmen knocked down one of the militia men, who died shortly afterwards. But at last the rioters forced the line of the militia, shot ensign Hart, an amiable young man about twenty, dead, and killed two private men. Upon this, the commanding-officer ordered his men to fire over the heads of the rioters; but they, exasperated by the death of one of their officers, and two of their fellow-militia-men, when once they began, were not to be kept within bounds. The shocking spectacle presented itself for nearly ten minutes, of fellow-subjects firing upon one another; and, the still more horrible sight soon after was exhibited, of some carried dead in carts, others on horses, and many were led along just dying of their wounds, and covered with blood; and the dreadful shrieks of the women, whose husbands or sons were amongst the rioters, were sufficient to melt the most obdurate heart. A poor widow with eight children, and pregnant with another, going into the market to look after her son was shot dead, and her son was immediately after shot through the thigh. Another pregnant woman was shot as she was standing at a window. Sixteen were carried dead into the church-yard, and the whole of the killed and wounded amounted to above 100; the former amounted to forty-two.

The intelligence of these riots no sooner reached the metropolis, than the militia act became the rallying cry of the disaffected. The king, wherever he presented himself was assailed by the cry of "No Militia." In fact, it appeared to be the whole aim of the people to seize every occasion on which they could express their indignation, and his very amusements were at last selected as the proper opportunities for manifesting their opposition to any of his private or public measures. The attachment of his majesty to the theatres was well known, but scarcely did he ever present himself in public, than he was certain to experience the clamours of some party or body of

men, who considered themselves to be injured by him. The following is one proof among the many which could be adduced.

On the 7th his majesty attended the representation of *Richard III.* at Drury-lane, and he was on this occasion received with the most discordant yells, proceeding from a crowd of servants, some in livery, and some out, in which the party-coloured gentlemen were assisted by their fellow female servants, and particularly by the cooks and scullions, who crowded from the purlieus of Shoreditch and the fashionable squares at the west-end of the town to fill the benches of the gallery and the pit; not by their vociferations to express their loyalty to their king, but to give him, as they termed it, a good basting, for having been the means of abridging them of a great part of their revenue. This impolitic act of the servants arose from the following circumstance:—It was the custom at this period, at all routs and parties, to give vails to servants, and it grew by degrees to such an excess, that visitors considered it at last so serious a tax upon them, that many actually declined the invitations, from the enormous expense to which they were subject in giving vails to a tribe of servants. That eminent character Jonas Hanway wrote a tract expressly on the subject, entitled *Eight Letters to the Duke of Newcastle on the custom of Vails-giving in England.* Mr. Hanway was instigated to this step by sir Timothy Waldo, who one day dined with the duke of Newcastle, and, on his leaving the house, was contributing to the support and insolence of a train of servants who lined the hall, and at last put a crown into the hand of the cook, who returned it, saying—“Sir, I do not take *silver*.” “Don’t you, indeed?” said the worthy baronet, putting his money in his pocket, “then I do not give *gold*.” Mr Hanway was once po-

lately reproached by a friend in a high station, for not coming oftener to dine with him. “Indeed, my lord,” he replied—“*I cannot afford it.*” On another occasion he was paying the servants of a friend, after a dinner to which their master had invited him, one by one as they appeared. “Sir, your great-coat,” said one, upon which he paid a shilling. “Your hat,” said another—a shilling; “your stick”—a shilling; “your umbrella”—a shilling. “Sir, your gloves.” “Why, friend, you may keep the gloves;” said Mr. Hanway, “they are not worth a shilling.” These heavy drains upon the finances of Mr. Hanway determined him immediately to write the letters already mentioned; and the duke of Newcastle took the earliest opportunity of submitting them to the perusal of his majesty. He immediately saw the impropriety of the custom, and he ordered the servants of the household to be called before him. His majesty first addressed himself to the head-cook. “You came into my service,” said the king, “at a stipulated salary; that salary is regularly paid to you: your services are paid by me, nor will I henceforth be subject to the meanness of having my servants paid by the contribution of others. I will not have a single vail taken in my household, and the first who is guilty of the offence shall that instant receive his dismissal: this order applies to you all; therefore, as far as my example can extend, the practice of vails-giving shall be abolished. The servants left the royal presence not very well satisfied; and this, to them most unpleasant mandate, soon spread through all the fraternity of the servants. The noblemen and gentry followed the example of his majesty, and the servants adopted the plan of expressing their resentment towards the king, for having thus mulct them of a great portion of their perquisites, by going *en masse*

to the theatre, and openly abusing him for what they called, his unroyal interference in their rights. His majesty bore all their taunts and uproar with the greatest composure, nor did he retire from the theatre until the whole of the performance was finished.

On the 19th of March his majesty went to the House of Peers, and gave the royal assent to several bills; one of which was for granting to his majesty a certain sum out of the sinking fund, another to render more effectual a previous act for the limitation of the crown, and a third for the relief of insolvent debtors.

The passing of the last act has given rise to the popular notion, that a general pardon regularly issues on the accession of every sovereign to the throne; but a more erroneous one cannot be entertained. There is no act of any sort which necessarily issues for such a purpose on an accession. The act of the first of George III., (stat. 1. c. 17.) namely, the Insolvent Debtors' Act, did not go much further than the law as it now stands. It does not appear that any such act was passed at the accession of George I. or George II., although there was on the accession of queen Anne. Acts of grace were passed in the 7th year of queen Anne, the 3d and 7th of George I., and the 20th of George II., which was the last, none having been passed in the reign of his late majesty. It must also be remembered, that acts of grace are not usually passed at the beginning of a reign; and it lies wholly, within the pleasure of the crown, to make such limitations or exceptions from them as it may, in its wisdom, think fit. It must also be observed, that the king's pardon only applies to offences wholly within the power of his officers to correct and punish, but cannot interfere with the privileges of parliament. Thus, by stat. 2, Richard II., c. 1., pardons to be granted to

certain persons attainted by parliament, are declared void; and by stat. 12 and 13 William III., c. 2. the king's pardon is not pleadable in an impeachment by the commons; neither is it believed, that the king, by his pardon, can release from prison any person confined by either house of parliament for a contempt, for if he could do that at any distance of time after the commitment, he might do it the next moment, and thereby completely annul the constitutional remedy for this species of offence.

His majesty having given the royal assent to the several acts, put an end to the session by the following most gracious speech:

My lords and gentlemen,

I cannot put an end to this session, without declaring my entire satisfaction in your proceedings during the course of it. The zeal you have shewn for the honour of my crown, as well as for my true interest, and that of your country, which are ever the same, is the clearest demonstration of that duty and affection to my person and government, of which you so unanimously assured me at your first meeting. Nothing could so much add to the pleasure which these considerations afford me, as that I am now able to acquaint you with the great progress made of late by the combined army in Germany, under the command of prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. I formerly told you, that the nature of the war, in those parts, had kept the campaign there still depending; and it now appears, to the surprise of my enemies, that the superior ability, and indefatigable activity of my general, and the spirit and ardour of my officers and troops, have greatly profited of this perseverance, notwithstanding all the difficulties arising from the season.

By your assistance, I have taken the best care to recruit that army in an effectual manner; and have made such a disposition of my fleet for the next summer, as may most advantageously defend my kingdoms; protect the commerce of my subjects; maintain and extend our possessions and acquisitions; and annoy the enemy.

As in all my measures I have nothing in view but the security and felicity of my dominions, the support of my allies, and the restoring of the public tranquillity, I trust in the Divine Providence to give a happy issue to our farther operations.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for your unanimity and despatch, in providing for the expenses of my civil government, and the honour and dignity of the crown: and I think myself as much obliged to you, for the prudent use, which, in framing that provision, you have made of my consent to leave my own hereditary revenues to such disposition of parliament, as might best conduce to the utility and satisfaction of the public, as for what more immediately concerns myself.

In making my acknowledgments for the large and extensive supplies which you have granted me this session, I am at loss whether most to applaud your cheerfulness in giving, or your wisdom in proportioning them to the extraordinary occasions of the public, notwithstanding those uncommon burthens, which I heartily regret. No care shall be wanting on my part, to see them duly applied to the national ends for which you intended them.

My lords and gentlemen,

The expiration of this parliament now drawing very near, I will forthwith give the necessary orders for calling a new one; but I cannot take my leave of you, without returning my thanks for the many eminent proofs you have given of your fidelity and affection to my family and government, and of your zeal for this happy and excellent constitution.

During this parliament, the flame of war was kindled by the injurious encroachments and usurpations of our enemies; and therefore it became just and necessary on our part. In the prosecution of it you have given such support to my royal grandfather and myself, and such assistance to our allies, as have manifested your public-spirited concern for the honour of the nation, and the maintenance of its undoubted rights and possessions, and been attended with glorious successes, and great acquisitions, in various parts of the world, particularly the entire reduction of Canada, a conquest of the utmost importance to the security of our colonies in North

America, and to the extension of the commerce and navigation of my subjects.

May God Almighty grant continuance to these successes! The use which I propose to make of them is, to secure and promote the welfare of my kingdoms, and to carry on the war with vigour, in order to procure to them the blessings of peace, on safe and honourable conditions for me and my allies; to which I have been always ready to hearken.

Firm in these resolutions, I do, with entire confidence, rely on the good dispositions of my faithful subjects in the choice of their representatives; and I make no doubt but they will thereby demonstrate the sincerity of those assurances, which have been so cordially and universally given me, in the loyal, affectionate, and unanimous addresses of my people.

Then the lord chancellor, by his majesty's command, said,

My lords and gentlemen,

It is his majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this parliament be prorogued to Tuesday the seventh day of April next, to be then here held; and this parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the seventh day of April next.

Considering the high and deservedly just importance which is attached in this country to all parliamentary proceedings, the following exposition of the law respecting parliaments on the demise of the crown cannot but prove acceptable. By the statute of the 6th of Anne, cap. 7. sec. 4., it is provided that from thenceforth no parliament shall be determined or dissolved by the death or demise of her majesty queen Anne, her heirs or successors, but such parliament shall and is by the said act enacted to continue, and is empowered and required, if sitting at the time of such demise, immediately to proceed to act, notwithstanding such death or demise, for and during the term of six months, unless it shall be sooner prorogued or dissolved; and if such parliament shall be prorogued, that is, by the successor to the crown, then it shall meet and sit upon the day to which

it shall be prorogued, and continue for the residue of the six months, unless sooner prorogued and dissolved. Then follows in section 6, this very extraordinary provision, *viz.*, "That in case there is no parliament in being at the time of the demise of the crown" that has met and sat, "then the last preceding parliament shall immediately convene and sit at Westminster, as if the said parliament had never dissolved." The same provision is made, and with the same expression, "that has met and sat" by the regency bills of the 24th of George II., cap. 24, sec. 18, and of the 6th of George III., cap. 24, sec. 20. The construction of this expression "that has met and sat" has been always understood to be a parliament of which a session has been held; and to constitute a session it has been held, that an act of parliament must have passed both houses, and must have received the royal assent*. It has not yet happened since the passing of the law, that a demise of the crown has taken place without a parliament in being, or that has met and sat. King William died on Sunday the 8th of March 1701, and both houses met and sat upon that day. The parliament was then sitting, and each house had upon the day before severally adjourned itself to the next day, though it was Sunday, probably in expectation of this event. Queen Anne died upon Sunday the 1st of August, 1714, upon which day both houses, though then separated by prorogation to the 10th of August, met and sat. King George I. died abroad upon the 11th of June 1727, and George II. being proclaimed upon the 15th of June, the parliament, which stood prorogued to the 27th of June, assembled

on the 16th. King George II. died upon Saturday the 25th of October 1760, and George III. was proclaimed on Sunday the 26th, upon which day both houses of parliament met, though then separated by prorogation until the 13th of November.

The intervals between the demise and the dissolution of the parliament were

On the accession of George I. 158 days.

George II. 55

George III. 145

The intervals between the demise and the meeting of the new parliament to transact business were

On the accession of George I. 228 days.

George II. 226

George III. 374

The civil list bills were, in all cases, the first legislative acts of the reign, and, in all cases, they were passed before the dissolution of parliament.

On the 21st of March, a proclamation was issued for dissolving the parliament, and declaring the calling of another, the writs to bear teste on that day, and to be returnable the 19th of May. Two other proclamations were also issued at the same time, one for the election of the sixteen peers for Scotland on May 5th, and another for continuing all officers not already removed or discharged for the space of four months. His majesty also ordered writs to be issued for the election of the members for the convocation of the clergy.

At the close of the session the right honorable Arthur Onslow, who had filled the chair of the house of commons during five successive

* The session is never supposed to be at an end until a prorogation; though unless some act be passed, or some judgement given in parliament, it is in truth no session at all. Blackstone, vol. 1. p. 184.

At all events, there can be no session begun till opened by a royal declaration of the causes of summons. But the limitation of temporary acts until six weeks, &c., after the commencement of a session implies, that a session may be commenced and construed to exist although no act should pass.

parliaments with unparralleled applause, signified his intention of retiring from his office in consequence of the approach of age and its attendant infirmities. The commons were not insensible of the services of this venerable speaker : the thanks of the house were unanimously voted to him, also an address to his majesty, praying that some signal mark of his favour might be bestowed upon him. The king graciously attended to their petition, and settled a pension of 3,000*l.* per annum on Mr. Onslow, for his own life and that of his son, who was soon after ennobled under the title of lord Onslow.

The political measures, which were adopted immediately on the dissolution of parliament, tended in a great degree to open the eyes of the people to the intrigues which had been carrying on, and the projectors of which had been waiting in secret in order to disclose on a sudden the effect of the secret influence which lord Bute was supposed at this time to hold over the king. His lordship had not forgotten his defect in endeavouring to palm upon the county of Southampton, a member of his own choosing ; but he found it very convenient to forget all the *friendship* which he professed for Mr. Legge, and the great zeal which he was at all times ready to shew in those cases in which he could be of service to him. Parliament was, however, no sooner dissolved, than a change in the ministry took place. Mr. Legge was instantly dismissed, and on his dismissal the whole ministry ought immediately to have resigned. A measure of such union and spirit must have been attended with the most happy effects. The king's favourite would have been checked in his design of seizing upon the kingdom, and the king himself would have been convinced that the tory principles inculcated at Leicester-house, though amusing in theory, were mischievous in practice.

Two days after the dismissal of Mr. Legge, lord Holderness resigned upon condition of having a large pension secured to him, and the reversion of the cinque ports. This resignation has been already hinted at, and the temporizing policy of his lordship speaks not much in favour of his patriotism. Lord Bute, in whose favour his resignation was purchased, was instantly appointed secretary of state in his room, and he made Mr. Charles Jenkinson his confidential *commis.*

The political hemisphere of the country now began to assume a wholly different aspect. Some slight propositions for peace had been made in 1759, but little regard was paid to them, and it was obvious that no general pacification would result from them. At the commencement, however, of 1761, the scene of negotiation was opened with far greater solemnity and parade ; and as it was carried on with great diligence, it necessarily forms a principal part of the history of what may be justly denominated the first year of his majesty's reign. The animosity of the belligerent powers had, in a great degree, subsided ; their efforts had slackened, and their operations began gradually to degenerate into the *petite guerre*. Those vast events that astonish the mind, or hold it in a pleasing suspense ; those important battles and sieges ; those rapid and well-conducted marches, and those lively enterprises which distinguished the former years of the war, scarcely form any part of the history of 1761. But although the operations of the field had fallen into a state of languor, the cabinet assumed an unusual degree of activity, and all the belligerent parties appeared to enter into the negotiation with the best founded intentions of bringing it to a favourable issue. It was very early in the year 1761, that the courts of Petersburg, Vienna, France, Sweden, and Poland,

agreed, severally and jointly, to offer proposals towards renewing that negotiation for peace, which had been abruptly broken off in the close of the year 1759. France was the principal and the first mover, for as it was her ambition which had made the war so general, and her revenue which in a great measure supported it, the former being now humbled by a series of unfortunate events, and the latter reduced by most enormous expenses, she began at length to relent, and apparently to desire peace in earnest. The other members of the grand alliance could not with any decency or safety oppose these dispositions of France. The court of Sweden was given in particular to understand, that the exhausted condition of France was the true motive of her moderation; that in fact, she was not able any longer to furnish the stipulated subsidies, nor to adhere to the letter of her engagements with her allies. These circumstances, which she was neither able nor seemed disposed to conceal, formed the surest guarantee of her sincerity.

The five parties to the war on that side, made as many declarations, which were signed at Paris on the 25th of March, and delivered at London on the 31st of the same month. The counter declaration of Great Britain and Prussia appeared on the 3d of April. Augsburg, as the situation most commodious for the powers at war, was appointed for the congress.

Lord Egremont, lord Stormont, the English ambassador at Poland, and general Yorke, our ambassador in the Hague, were nominated as the English plenipotentiaries. On the part of France, the count de Choiseul was appointed. Augsburg now became the centre of attention to all Europe, and each court prepared every thing towards this important meeting, which it could furnish of splendour for the display of its dignity, and of ability for the support of its interest.

The public conversation was for awhile diverted from scenes of horror, bloodshed, and pillage, and every mind was employed more agreeably on the public scene of magnificence, and the private game of policy which was to ensue.

At this period, however, a particular circumstance occurred at home, which destroyed the unanimity of the cabinet, and increased that reserve which so particularly distinguished the character of Mr. Pitt, and diminished that confidence which ought always to exist between the ministers of the nation, and without which the motions of the state machine can never be regular, nor conducive to the general interests of the country.

The administration which had been formed upon the dissolution of parliament, was one of the most extraordinary kind, being composed of individuals, whose political principles were in diametrical opposition to those of their colleagues, and whose views, in regard to peace or war, or to the terms on which the former should be obtained, were most notoriously at variance. It was most evident on this occasion, that his majesty was placed in a particular state of embarrassment; he had reason to admire the political sagacity, the boldness of action, and the undaunted firmness which distinguished Mr. Pitt as a minister, and therefore, on the 21st of March, 1761, he appointed him one of his principal secretaries of state. The duke of Newcastle was at this time at the head of the treasury, lord Anson at the admiralty, and lord Sandys at the board of trade and plantations. These departments were respectively filled by individuals in the Pelham and Bute interest, with neither of which Mr. Pitt ever cordially co-operated, and to whom, on the other hand, he was himself particularly obnoxious. Mr. Pitt regarded some of his colleagues with the most profound contempt; nor

did he even compliment them by informing them of his intended measures, much less by asking their advice. He was determined to be *Cæsar aut nihil* amongst them; and with the knowledge, that he had at the treasury one of the most extravagant men that ever had the management of the public purse, he knew he could command at all times the great sinew of war, and therefore fearlessly entered upon his gigantic projects. It was, however, four days subsequently to Mr. Pitt's being sworn in as one of the secretaries of state, that he had suddenly a colleague given to him, who, in his political plans, bore the most decided hostility to Mr. Pitt. This person was lord Bute himself, who was sworn in on the 25th, as one of the principal secretaries of state; and from that moment may be dated the decline of Mr. Pitt's ministerial ascendancy, and his subsequent retirement from the councils of the nation.

In the mean time the negotiation was continued; and it was unanimously agreed, in the first place, in order that the negotiation, in itself sufficiently intricate, should be the less embarrassed, not to admit to the treaty any but the parties principally concerned together with their allies.

Although this exclusion of the neutral interests tended greatly to disembarass and simplify the negotiation, yet such was the variety of separate and independent matters, which still remained to be discussed, that it became advisable to make a further separation, if any hope were entertained of treating upon them with any tolerable ease, or with any prospect of coming to a speedy decision.

For this purpose it was necessary to bring back the motives to the war to their first principles, and to disengage those several interests which originally, and in their own nature, had

no connexion, from that mass in which mutual injuries and a common animosity had blended and confounded them. This proposition came first from France, and it was an early and happy omen of her inclination to peace.

The war, which was truly and originally German, evidently had but a single, though this a very difficult, object, to determine the fate of the king of Prussia. So many powers were concerned in this determination, and their views of aggrandizement, indemnification and revenge, so various and difficult to be reconciled, that this alone seemed matter enough for a separate and very arduous negotiation. In effect, all the powers of the North were concerned in it. For this reason, the other great object of the general war, the limits of America, which, by that strange chain of hostile connexions, which ever unites the various independent quarrels and enmities of Europe, had been mixed with the German disputes, was again set upon its proper and peculiar basis; and whilst the truly German interests were handled at Augsburg, it was proposed to treat on this head separately in London and in Paris. For this purpose ministers were mutually sent from these courts; Mr. Stanley on the part of England, and Mr. Bussy on that of France.

This proposition was also exceedingly prudent; for there is no doubt, that, if these potentates could have settled their claims to their mutual satisfaction, and have carried to Augsburg the same candour and good faith, and the same sincere desire for peace, their influence must necessarily have tended to inspire principles of moderation into the rest, and must have contributed largely to accelerate the great work of pacification.

Matters were thus set upon the best possible footing, and the negotiation appeared to

be in the happiest train that the partisans of peace could wish, but unfortunately the plan and disposition of the treaty were much more easily adjusted than the matter and the substance. It was very obvious that France, if she were willing to pretend to a desire of peace, could scarcely avoid making concessions, which to her were sufficiently mortifying. The moment her proper quarrel came to be separated from the general cause, she had every disadvantage in the negotiation, because she had suffered every disaster in the war. On the side of Germany indeed she had acted with success; but even there the advantages she had acquired were still precarious, as the chance of war was still open, no proposition for a cessation of arms having been admitted. As she was therefore confident that great sacrifices would be expected from her, she did not rest her hopes so finally upon the negotiation, as not to look out for another resource, and this rendered on her part the whole proceeding less effective and sincere.

Spain was the resource on which she relied; a power, at that time of no inconsiderable weight in the political scale of Europe, and which she hoped could not look with indifference on the humiliation of the principal branch of the house of Bourbon. Hitherto indeed the king of Spain had observed a tolerably exact neutrality in his conduct, and in his declarations had spared no expressions of good-will and friendship to the British court. He appeared to be wholly intent on the internal economy of his dominions, on the improvement of their long-neglected police, on the advancement of their commerce, and the regulation of the finances. But notwithstanding these domestic attentions, the French ministry did not despair of drawing his regard to the great quarrel which was then pending between the

leading powers of Europe. It was considered that the offers which France in the circumstances in which she then stood would find herself obliged to make, must necessarily give the highest degree of alarm to all good Spaniards, who could not see without the most serious apprehensions the French power wholly annihilated in America. By this event, their colonies, though so much superior to all others in opulence and extent, must in a certain degree lie at the mercy of England, no power being in any sort able to afford them assistance, or to hold the balance between them and the power of England. At this time, indeed, the French court had not absolutely succeeded in her designs at Madrid, but she was in hopes that every step she took in the treaty, and every concession that she made, would prove a fresh incentive to the jealousies and apprehensions of Spain. Thus in effect all the motions which France seemingly made towards peace were in reality so many steps towards a new war; and, whilst at London she breathed nothing but moderation, and the most earnest desire of putting a period to the calamities of Europe; at Madrid, she was taking the most vigorous measures for their protracted duration.

On the side of England, though there was far more good faith in the public procedure, there were also, it must be admitted, many circumstances which co-operated to retard the peace. The great and almost unparalleled success which attended our arms in this war had raised a proportionable expectation, and inspired very high thoughts into the minds of the people. They thought it unreasonable to make almost any concessions to a nation whose ambition and violence they had always found to correspond with its power, and whom they now considered as lying at their feet suing for

mercy. This was generally supposed to be the time of reducing France, which if suffered to pass by, we could never hope again to recover. In these sentiments it must have fared ill with that administration, which should make a sacrifice of any of these objects on which the people had set their hearts.

Although it be contrary to the plan of this work to enter into a diffuse statement of the political events which distinguished the memorable reign of his late majesty, resigning that task to the more elaborate historian, yet, in some instances, the changes in the political hemisphere had so decided an influence on the actions of his majesty, and with which the happiness of his private life, and the splendour of his public one were so intimately connected, that they must be necessarily considered as links of one great comprehensive chain, each dependent on the other, and bearing its own weight of interest and importance.

We shall, however, in order to avoid all digressive matter, confine ourselves as briefly as possible to those events which, though not apparently so, yet in their secret and hidden relations, had a direct tendency to bring about some of the most important epochs of his life.

It would be a task attended with no little difficulty to trace the effects which daily manifest themselves, either to their remote or final causes, bearing in themselves no affinity nor homogeneity, and appearing to the casual observer as an impossibility that the one could spring from the other; thus it may appear singular, that the marriage of the king was expedited by the coalition which was at this time formed between Spain and France, and at the very time when the former had decided upon a short neutrality, and the latter was negotiating for a peace.

Mr. Bussy arrived in London in May 1761,

and Mr. Stanley at Paris in the same month. This negotiation was carried on with the greatest apparent unanimity, but the court of France had in fact prevailed on the king of Spain to join it in the war. Mr. Pitt had suspected for some time that this junction was in contemplation, and upon the delivery of a memorial by Mr. Bussy on the interests of Spain, (when there was a Spanish minister at our court) he was confirmed in his suspicions. He saw that a war with Spain was inevitable, and he immediately made preparation for it. But the people, however, were by no means prepared for this new war; on the contrary, the ministers were well convinced that in some respects it would be received with great tokens of dissatisfaction. The cabinet were divided upon the question. Mr. Pitt was for the most decisive and vigorous steps being taken immediately against Spain. He wished to attack her foreign possessions, and to declare war before the rich galleons which were then at sea should have reached their destination. In these measures he was strongly opposed by lord Bute, who considered the Spanish war as a storm which was likely soon to burst upon the people; and, he knew well that he should come in for his share of the opprobrium of the measure; he therefore felt no inclination to increase the tide of unpopularity which at this time set in so strongly against him, and in which he had also committed his monarch. He therefore considered that the most prudent measure under such circumstances, would be to throw a tub to the whale, and to distract the attention of the people from the unexpected circumstance of a Spanish war, by exciting their interest in an important event of a domestic nature.

The early proofs indeed which his late majesty had given, that his only ambition was to

be the father of his people, and that he was possessed of all the endowments requisite to fill so exalted a character, rendered the whole nation extremely impatient to see him united to a princess capable of making him as happy as he was desirous of making his people. As soon, therefore, as they saw him, by his ascending the throne, at full liberty to listen to the dictates of his own royal heart, they bent all their thoughts towards the selection of a princess, in all respects worthy of the love and affection of the best, as well as the greatest, prince of Europe; not but that there were many who thought he might find in a subject, an individual every way qualified to wear a crown, and made no difficulty whatever of pointing her out. But while some were amusing themselves with the vague accounts of his majesty, having actually fixed his choice on this, or that, foreign princess; and others, without any regard to decorum, had, in the most virulent pamphlets, written for or against any connexion with a subject; an extraordinary gazette appeared with the following intelligence, which, in an agreeable manner, put an end to all their conjectures, and convinced them, that, even in the affairs of life, which most nearly concerned his majesty's personal welfare, he made that of his subjects the chief rule of his deliberations.

At the Court of St. James's, the 8th day of July, 1761,

PRESENT,

The king's most excellent majesty.

His royal highness the duke of York, archbishop of Canterbury, lord chancellor, lord president, lord privy seal, lord chamberlain, duke of Bolton, duke of Leeds, duke of Bedford, duke of Rutland, duke of Queensberry, lord great chamberlain, duke of Newcastle, lord Steward, earl of Huntingdon, earl of Winchelsea, earl of Sandwich, earl of Shaftesbury, earl of Holderness, earl of Rochford, earl of Albemarle, earl of Godolphin, earl of Cholmondeley, earl of Kinnoul, earl of Bute, earl of

Halifax, earl Waldegrave, earl of Bath, earl of Buckinghamshire, earl Powis, earl Harcourt, earl Cornwallis, earl of Hardwicke, earl of Egmont, earl of Thomond, viscount Falmouth, viscount Barrington, viscount Bate-man, viscount Ligonier, viscount Royston, lord Berkeley of Stratton, lord Sandys, lord Anson, lord Lyttelton, lord Melcombe, lord Grantham, Mr. vice chamberlain, Henry Legge, esq., George Grenville, esq., James Grenville, esq., Mr. secretary Pitt, lord-chief-justice Willes, master of the rolls, Henry Fox, esq., Charles Townshend, esq., Robert Nugent, esq., Welbore Ellis, esq., sir Francis Dashwood.

His majesty, being this day present in council, was pleased to make the following declaration, *viz.*

Having nothing so much at heart as to procure the welfare and happiness of my people, and to render the same stable and permanent to posterity, I have ever since my accession to the throne turned my thoughts towards the choice of a princess for my consort; and I now, with great satisfaction, acquaint you, that after the fullest information and mature deliberation, I am come to a resolution to demand in marriage the princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz; a princess distinguished by every eminent virtue, and amiable endowment, whose illustrious line has constantly shewn the firmest zeal for the Protestant religion, and a particular attachment to my family. I have judged proper to communicate to you these my intentions, in order that you may be fully apprized of a matter so highly important to me and to my kingdoms, and which, I persuade myself, will be most acceptable to all my loving subjects.

Whereupon, all the privy councillors present made it their request to his majesty, that this, his majesty's most gracious declaration to them, might be made public, which his majesty was pleased to order accordingly.

W. SHARPE.

On the same day his majesty signed the following proclamation for his coronation:

GEORGE R.

Whereas we have resolved, by the favour and blessing of Almighty God, to celebrate the solemnity of our royal coronation upon Tuesday, the 22d day of Sep.

tember instant, at our palace at Westminster, and for as much as by the ancient customs and usages, as also in regard of divers tenures of sundry manors, lands, and other hereditaments, many of our loving subjects do claim, and are bound to do and perform divers several services on the said day, and at the time of the coronation, as in times precedent their ancestors, and those from whom they claim, have done and performed at the coronation of our famous progenitors and predecessors; we, therefore, out of the princely care for the preservation of the lawful rights and inheritances of our loving subjects, whom it may concern, have thought fit to give notice of and publish our resolutions therein, and do hereby give notice of and publish the same accordingly; and we do hereby further signify, that by our commission under our great seal of Great Britain, we have appointed and authorized our most dearly beloved brother and councillor, Edward duke of York, (with all other members of the privy council), or any five or more of them, to receive, hear, and determine the petitions and claims which shall be to them exhibited by any of our loving subjects in this behalf; and we shall appoint our said commissioners for that purpose to sit in the Painted Chamber of our palace at Westminster, upon Tuesday, the 21st day of this instant, July, at ten of the clock in the forenoon of the same day, and from time to time to adjourn, as to them shall seem meet, for the execution of our said commission, which we do thus publish, to the intent that all such persons whom it may any ways concern, may know when and where to give their attendance for the exhibiting of their petitions and claims concerning their services before-mentioned, to be done and performed unto us at our said coronation: and we do hereby signify unto all and every of our subjects whom it may concern, that our will and pleasure is, that we do hereby strictly charge all persons, of what rank or quality soever they be, who either, upon our letters to them directed, or by reason of their offices or tenures, or otherwise, are to do any service at the said day or time of our coronation, that they do duly give their attendance accordingly, in all respects furnished and appointed as to so great a solemnity appertains, and answerable to the dignities and places which every one of them respectively holdeth and enjoyeth; and of this they, or any of them, are not to fail, as they will answer the

contrary at their perils, unless upon special reasons by ourself, under our hand, to be allowed, we shall dispense with any of their services or attendances.

Given at the Court at St. James's, the 8th day of July, 1761, in the first year of our reign.

On Monday the 22d, between the hours of eleven and twelve, the officer at arms, serjeant at arms, and others mounted their horses, and at Westminster-hall-gate, Windsor herald, (after the trumpet had thrice sounded), read the above proclamation aloud, which being done, a procession was made to Temple-bar, where the constables of the city and liberty of Westminster retired, and were replaced by those of the City of London, the city marshal attending in the following order:

A party of constables with their staves to clear the way

High constable of Westminster, with his staff

Knight marshals men, two and two

Drums, two and two

Trumpets, two and two

Serjeant trumpeter in his collar, bearing his mace

Blue mantle and rouge dragon

Pursuivants in their coats of his majesty's arms

Rouge croix pursuivant, in his coat of his majesty's arms,

having a serjeant at arms on his left hand

Lancaster herald in his coat and collar, having a serjeant

at arms on his left hand

Windsor herald in his coat and collar, between two

serjeants at arms

A party of constables to close the procession.

At the end of Chancery-lane, Lancaster herald read the proclamation, and lastly at the Royal Exchange, in 'Change time; Rouge Croix pursuivant proclaimed it a third time, which ended with the loudest acclamations of the assembled multitude.

Previously to entering into the particulars of the negotiation for the hand of the princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz for one of the first potentates of Europe, the following short description of the country which gave

birth to the mother of the present royal family of England will not prove unacceptable.

The country of Mecklenburg, which is about 120 miles in length, and thirty in breadth, is bounded on the north by the Baltic, by Brandenburg on the east, by Lunenburg and Brandenburg on the south, and by Holstein on the west. Its ancient inhabitants were the famous Vandals, who formerly made so conspicuous a figure in Europe, and, at length, had their kingdom reduced to this duchy, by the knights of the Teutonic order, the Poles, and the Brandenburgers. The Vandals were a rude, barbarous people, who had settled in this country at least twelve hundred years before the birth of Christ. They formed it into a powerful kingdom, and preserved its title and dignity till 1163; when its monarch, Pribislaus II. was compelled to embrace the Christian religion, by Henry Lyon, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, and one of our king's ancestors, assisted by the duke of Pomerania. At this time the title of king of the Vandals was extinguished, and that of the prince of Mecklenburg substituted in its stead: who became a vassal to the duke of Bavaria. However, in 1349, the prince of Mecklenburg, as he was called, was created a duke, and made a prince of the empire. The remnant of the Vandals united with the Mecklenburgers about the year 1429: after that time they were divided into three branches, viz.: of Gustrow, Swerin, and Strœlitz; but the extinction of that of Gustrow in 1688, occasioned a law-suit, between the descendants of the two other branches, about the succession; which dispute continued till 1701, when a treaty of partition was made at Hamburg, and ratified by the emperor in the following manner: that the duchy of Gustrow should go to the duke of Swerin, and that the duke of Strœlitz should

have the bishoprick of Ratzeburg secularized, and 40,000 crowns a-year from the tolls of Boitzenbourg, and a voice in the diet of the empire.

The duke of Swerin's annual revenue amounts to 40,000*l.* and that of the duke of Strœlitz to 15,000*l.* besides his domain. The country is fruitful, but unhealthy, and excessive cold in winter. It has often been the scene of war, particularly in the differences between Sweden and the empire, when its principal towns, viz.: Rostock, (a sea-port), Gustrow, Butzow, Wismar, Swerin, Domitz, and Gaddebush, were several times taken by the Swedes, Danes, and Imperialists, and some battles fought near them. The country is able to raise a considerable body of troops; but they never had a sufficient number to repel any invader. The titles of both dukes are the same, viz.: dukes of Mecklenburg, princes of Wenden, Swerin, and Ratzeburg, lords of Rostock and Stargard; which last was the name of the final branch of the Vandals. The established religion of the country is Lutheran. Imhoff, in his *Notitia Princeps Germaniæ*, gives a large account of the genealogy of this family, which he says, is lineally descended from the kings or leaders of the Vandals. Hubner, in his *Genealogy of the German Princes*, says, this family, if not the most ancient in Europe, is certainly one of the most noble in Germany. The branch of Strœlitz is the second branch of the house of Mecklenburg; but its duke is one of the secular princes of the empire, and takes his seat in the diet of Ratzeburg. The late duke of Mecklenburg Strœlitz, Adolphus Frederick III., dying unmarried, was succeeded by his nephew, (son to his brother Charles Lewis, who is dead), Adolphus Frederick IV., born May 5, 1738, having the following brothers and sisters:

1. Christina Sophia Albertina, born Dec. 6, 1735.

2. Charles Lewis Frederick, now a lieutenant-colonel in the Hanoverian foot-guards, born Dec. 10, 1741.

3. Earnest Gottlob Albert, born Aug. 27, 1742.

4. Sophia Charlotte, or Caroline, our most gracious queen, born May 16, 1744.

5. George Augustus, born Aug. 3, 1748.

The mother of this illustrious family, who died a little before the queen's marriage, was the princess Albertine-Elizabeth, born Aug. 3, 1713, the daughter of Ernest Frederick, duke of Saxe-Hildbourghausen.

There are some interesting circumstances, connected with this matrimonial negotiation,

which deserve particular notice. The merit of *finding out* the princess, as it was at that time designated, was claimed by general Græme; but the writer of *Le Montagnard parvenu*, ascribes it to lord Bute, for he says, page 17—“Heaven, through the immediate agency of the new secretary of state (lord Bute) pointed out princess Charlotte of Strelitz Mecklenburg. No doubt whatever exists, that general Græme was sent over by lord Bute to the German courts, to discover a suitable matrimonial alliance for his majesty; and, although his instructions were not so concise nor particular as those which were given to the ambassadors, who were sent to take a survey of the person of the young queen of Naples, whom Henry VII. intended to marry*, yet they

* Lord Bacon in his “*History of King Henry VII.*” says, “When the king was ancient [anno 1505] he had thoughts of marrying the young queen of Naples, and sent three ambassadors, with curious and exquisite instructions, for taking a survey of her person, complexion, &c.” These instructions signed by the king, together with the ambassadors’ answers, to the several articles, having been published by the favour of a descendant of Mr. Braybroke, who was one of the ambassadors; and as they answer the character given of them by lord Bacon, they cannot fail of being perused with peculiar interest.

Instruccions given by the king's highnesse, to his trusty and welbelovèd servants Frunceys Marsyn, James Braybroke, and John Stile, shewing howe they should ordre theymself when they come to the presence of the old quene of Naples, and the yong quene hir doghter.

1. First, after presentacion and delyverance of suche lettres as they shall have with theym, to be delyvered to the said quenes, from the ladie Katheryn, princesse of Wales, making hir recommendacon, and declaracon of suche charges and words, as shall bee shewed and committed unto theym by the said princesse, to be openned and declared on hir behalf to the said quenes, they shall well note and marke the state that they kepe, and howe they be accompanied with nobles and ladies.

2. Item, To take good hyde, and marke thestats that the said quenes kepe, and whether they kepe their estats and housolds apart, or in oon house togedres, and howe they be accompanied, and what lords and ladies they have abouts theym.

3. Item, If it shall fortune the king's said servants to fynde the said quenes keping their estats togeders, they shall well and assuredly note and marke the maner of keping and or-

dering theym in their estats, with the countenance and maner of every of theym, and suche answer as they shall make upon the speche and comunicacion as they shall have with theym, at the delyverance of the said lettres, and declaracion of thother matiers before mencioned; and to marke hir discrecion wisdom and gravitie, in hir said comunicacion and answer in every behalf.

4. Item, They shall in like wise endeavor theym to understand whether the yong quene speke any other langages than Spanyshe and Italyon, and whether she can speke any French or Laten.

5. Item, Specially to marke and note well the age and stature of the said yong quene, and the fetuys of hir bodye.

6. Item, Specially to marke the favor hir visage, whether she bee paynted or not, and whether it be fatte or leene, sharpe or rownde, and whether her countenance bee chierful and amyable, frownyng or malincolyous, stedefast or light, or blushing in comunicacion.

7. Item, To note the clearnesse of hir skynne.

8. Item, To note the colours of hir here.

9. Item, To note well hir ies, browes, teethe, and lippes.

extended to some minute particulars, of which, the negotiator must have been deeply read in human nature, to enable him to give a true and circumstantial report, considering how short the time was, allotted him for the purpose.

General Græme found the princess dowager of Strelitz, in the company of her two daughters, partaking of the humble festivities of the fashionable watering-place of Pyrmont, wholly divesting themselves of all the form and cere-

10. Item, To marke well the fassion of hir nose, and the heithe and brede of hir forehedde.

11. Item, Specially to note hir complexion.

12. Item, To marke hir armes, whether they bee grete or smale, long or shorte.

13. Item, To see hir hands bare, and to note the fassion of theym, whether the palm of hir hand bee thikke or thynne, and whether hir hands bee fatte or leene, long or shorte.

14. Item, To note hir fyngers, whether they be longe or shorte, smale or grete, brode or narrowe before.

15. Item, To marke whether hir nekke be longe or shorte, smale or grete.

16. Item, To marke her brests, and pappes, whether they be bigge or smale.

17. Item, To marke whether they appere any here about hir lippes or not.

18. Item, That they endeavor theym to speke with the said yong quene fasting, and that she may telle unto theym some matier at lengthe, and to approche as nere to hir mouthe as they honestly maye to thentent that they may fele the condicion of her brethe, whether it bee swete or not, and to marke at every time when they speke with hir, if they fele any savor of spices, rose waters, or muske, by the brethe of her mouthe or not.

19. Item, To note the height of hir stature, and to enquire whether she were any slippars, and of what height her slippars bee, to thentent they be not deceyved in the veray height and stature of hir; and if they may come to the sight of hir slippars, then to note the fassion of hir foote.

20. Item, To enquire whether she have any sekenesse of hir nativitie, deformitie or blemmyshe in hir bodye, and what that shuld bee; or whether she hath been communely in health, or sometyme seke, and sometyme hole, and to know the specialities of such diseases and sekenesse.

21. Item, Whether she be in any singular favor with the king of Aragon hir uncle, and whether she have any resemblance in visage, countenance, or complexion to him.

22. Item, To enquire of the manor of hir diet, and whether she bee a grete fedar or drynker, and whether she useth often to ete or drynke, and whether she drynketh wyne, or water, or bote.

23. Item, The kings said servants shall also at their comyng to the parties of Spayne, diligently enquire for some conyng paynter, havyn good experience in making and paynting of visages and portretures, and suche oon they shall take with theym to the place wher the said quenes make their abode, to thentent that the said paynter maye drawe a picture of the visage and semblance of the said yong quene, as like unto hir as it can or maye bee conveniently doon; which picture and image they shall substancially note and marke in every pounte and circumstance, soo that it agree in similitude and likenesse as near as it may possible to the veray visage, countenance and semblance of the said quene; and in case they may perceyve, that the paynter at the furst or second making thereof, hath not made the same perfeite to hir similitude and likenesse, or that he hath omitted any feture or circumstance, either in colours, or other proporcions of the said visage, then they shall cause the same paynter, or some other the most conyng paynter that they can gete, soo often times to renewe and reforme the same picture, till it be made perfeite, and agreeable in every behalfe with the veray image and visage of the said quene.

24. Item, The kings said servants by the wisest wayes that they can use, shall make inquisicion, and enserche what land or livelood the said yong quene hath, or shall have, afre the decesse of hir mother, either by the title of jointer or otherwise, in the realme of Naples, or in any other place or contraye, what is the yerely value thereof, and whether she shal have the same to hir and hir heires forever, or ells during hir lif oonly: and to knowe the specialities of the title and value thereof in every behalf, as nere as they shall knowe.

ANSWERS.

To the 6th article.—As to thys article, as farre as that we can persayve or know, that the said quene ys not paynted, and the favore of hir viasage ys after hir stature, of a verrey good compas and amyabille, and some what round and fatte, and the countenance ohierful and not frowneyng, and stedfast and not lizght nor boldehardy in speche, büt with a demewre womanly shamesfast contenance, and of fewe words as that we coude persayve, as we can thynke that she uttered the fewer words by cause that they quyn hir moder was pre-

mony attendant upon their rank, and entering into the gaieties of the place with all the urbanity and freedom of the distinguished citizen. To those who are acquainted with the manners of the foreign places of fashionable resort, no description is necessary of the ease and familiarity which distinguish the intercourse of the visitors, with the total absence of that stiffness and hauteur which too generally characterize the occasional frequenters of an English watering-place. In Germany, whatever may be the habits or customs of a family at home, whatever degree of consequence or pride, they may think themselves entitled to assume within their own immediate sphere of action, they no sooner enter into a distant one, than they assimilate themselves to the general manners of the society into which they are thrown, and their whole study appears to be to increase

the sum not only of individual, but of general, happiness. In this country the influx of company to particular watering-places, may be looked upon merely as the migration of a number of select families, carrying with them all their peculiar oddities and propensities, and adhering to them with the same obstinate inflexibility as if they were breathing within their own domicile. It is merely the transportation of a certain number of living subjects from the influence of a fresh air into that of a saline one, or of a rigorous northern climate, into a more genial southern one; and the same impediments and obstacles exist to an introduction to that family, as if they were encased in all the stiffness of home formality. Under such circumstances, the knowledge of the different characters who daily present themselves to the philosophic observer, becomes a very difficult task,

sent, the whiche had all the sayengs, and the yonge quyn sette as demeure as a mayden, and some tyme talkeynge with the ladyes that sette about hir, with a womanly lawzghenye [*laughing*] chere and contenance.

To the 9th article.—As to this article, the eyes of the said quyn be of colore browne, some what grayesse, and hir browes of a browne here, and very small like a wyre of here.

To the 10th article.—As to this article, the fashion of hir nose ys a littell riseynge in the mydward, and a littell comeynge or bowynge towards the end, and she is mych lyke nosid unto the quyn hir moder.

To the 13th article.—As to this article, we sawe the hands of the said quyn bare at thre sondry tymes, that we kyssed hir said hands, whereby we persawyd the said quyn to be rizghte fair handyd, and accordenye un to hir personage they be some what fully and softe, and faire, and clene skynnd.

To the 16th article.—As to this article, the said quynes trests be somewhat grete, and fully: and in as muche that they were trussid somewhat highe after the maner of the countrey, the whiche causithe hir grace for to seme muche the fullyer, and hir neck to be the shorter.

To the 17th article.—As to this article, as farre as that we can persayve and see, that the said quyne hath no here

apereyng abowte her lippes, nor mowthe, but she ys very clere skynned.

To the 18th article.—As to this article, we cowde never come un to the speiche of the said quyn fasteynge, wherefore we cowde nor myzght not attayne to knowliche of that part of this article: notwithstandinge at such oter tymes as we have spoken and have had comeunicacion with the said quyne, we have aproched as nyzghe un to hir visage as that we conveyently myzght do, and we cowde fele no savor of any spices or waters, and we thynke verely by the favor of hir visage and clenens of complexion and of hir mowthe, that the said quyn ys lyke for to be of a sewit savor, and well eyred.

To the 19th article.—We cowde not come by the parfite knowliche of her heizghte, for as much as that hir grace werithe slippers after the maner of the contrey, whereof we sawe the fashion, the whiche be of six fyngere brede, of heizghte large, and hir foote after the proporcion of the same ys butt small.

To the 22d article.—The said quyn ys a good feder, and cets well hir meat twyes on a daye, and drynkithe not often, and that she drynkithe most commonly water, and sometime that water ys boyled with synamon, and sometime she drinkithe ypocras, but not often.

for it is only at a distance from home and its relations, that the real character of the individual is to be distinguished. General Græme was a Scotchman, and in many respects the German character bears a strong resemblance to the Scottish. It is with excessive caution, and reserve, that the Germans as well as the Scotch admit a stranger amongst them; and unless he carries with him some indisputable forms of recommendation, a long time must elapse before his own merit, or the excellence of his private character, will gain him admission into the respectable circles of society. If, however, he has once obtained a footing amongst them, he is soon received every where with the token of hospitality, and the display of personal regard. When we consider the important mission with which general Græme was intrusted, it cannot be doubted, that he carried with him the most flattering recommendations to all the German courts; and, possessing as he did, a handsome person, with the most elegant manners, joined to some striking mental accomplishments, he was received with the most marked distinction, and his society was every where courted with peculiar eagerness.

The circumstances of general Græme's negotiation did not transpire for several years after the illustrious individual, of whom he was in search, had ascended the English throne. It was in 1777 that a controversy, respecting general Græme, appeared in the public prints; and it merits more notice than controversies upon the concerns of individuals usually deserve. We shall select only two short papers, as they contain some facts which are curious.

It should be previously observed, that, in the

first arrangement of the queen's establishment, general Græme was made secretary to the queen, and in 1765 he was also made comptroller, but in 1770 he was dismissed from her majesty's service.

On the fourth of October, 1777, the following paragraph appeared in the public prints:

It were to be wished, that, in introducing general Græme to the public notice, a little more pains had been taken to explain the ease and independence that gentleman was called from, as well as his appointment as negotiator and ambassador. The world has hitherto had the misfortune of beholding this officer only in the light of a simple individual, bred in a foreign service; employed once as a *private* agent to find out where a negotiation might be set on foot, and *rewarded liberally for the discovery*. These and other circumstances, being cleared up, will have the effect of rescuing from oblivion an illustrious character, whose merit has apparently not been enough considered.

This paragraph at the beginning seems to allude to some prior publication; but notwithstanding the most diligent search, nothing can be found except a short paragraph, stating that general Græme had resigned his employment.

The following answer to the above paragraph appeared immediately in one of the public papers:

I take the earliest opportunity to comply with the wish of the paragraph-writer, in your paper of to-day, respecting general Græme. Your correspondent, though he takes up the ludicrous style, as master of his subject, is certainly very ill informed. General Græme was sent three several times to Germany, *once as a private agent*, and twice as a public one. First, *to find out a princess*, then to bring her over, and lastly, to carry the garter to the prince her brother. The expenses of these journeys were considerable. He gave in no bill of them—the *others employed did**. His liberal rewards were a regi-

* From this passage it would appear, that general Græme was not the only negotiator sent to Germany; I am, however, not able to discover the most distant report of any of the other negotiators on this interesting subject, although, in the expenditure of the civil list, for 1760-1, there are the following items:—

ment, which cost him seven thousand pounds in raising; the office of secretary to the queen, for which he drew only one *half* of his salary, *being rode for the other half*, and some time after he was made comptroller to the queen's household.

On the 12th of October, 1777, the answer to the above, appeared in the following paragraph:

The letter-writer grants, that general Græme was bred in the Dutch service, and that he was at first a *private* agent to find out a princess. (It were to be wished he had chosen another phrase, for it will hardly be received as a compliment by the family to which it is applied.) But then the second commission was *public*, to bring her over. Here either the letter-writer or the public is in a great error, for the universal belief has been, that the late lord Harcourt was the minister commissioned to bring her over.

Almon, in his *Anecdotes of the Life of the Right Hon. William Pitt*, thus declares himself on this head: "It is well known that lord Harcourt was the person who went to Mecklenburg in a *public* character; but that circumstance does not invalidate the fact of general Græme being the *confidential* man, for, according to the principle of government laid down for the new reign, there was always an *ostensible* man, and a *confidential* man in every situation; and this anecdote shews the very early period at which the theory of the system of duplicity, which had been taught at Leicester-house, was put in practice at St. James's.

It must, however, be admitted, that the writer above alluded, to viewed the whole proceedings of the Bute administration with a jaundiced eye, as being diametrically opposite

to the line of politics pursued by his patron and friend Mr. Pitt; even in one instance he declares, that lord Bute *puzzled* the marriage of the king, and that his lordship's conduct arose not from any views similar to those, which had actuated a duke of Bourbon in procuring a queen for a French monarch, and yet he admits that in *some* instances the case bore a strong resemblance. The case of the French monarch was as follows:

On the decease of the duke of Orleans, regent, the duke of Bourbon insinuated himself so adroitly with the young, implicit and inexperienced king, as to establish himself prime minister, and in this instance lord Bute was declared to be the parallel of the French duke. The latter, however, so contrived matters as to have the Infanta, a Spanish princess, and of the Bourbon family, sent back; which was a gross affront to his then Catholic majesty. The main spring of the duke's policy was, to choose a princess to be raised to the throne of France, who should appear to him the poorest and the most friendless in Europe; that, being raised from her former indigent state, she should be more fastly bound in obligation to him.

This was, however, by no means the case in the choice of a queen for the king of England, for the extent of her dowry, or the opulence of her family was not to be taken into consideration; it was to her mental qualifications, to her personal accomplishments, and to the virtues of her disposition alone, that particular attention was to be directed.

To capt. George Campbell, for secret services abroad	.....	£.	s.	d.
To colonel Duval, for ditto	.....	1750	8	2
	.....	928	0	0

No trace can be found of what nature these services were.

* This phrase is now obsolete, but at the time of its use, it implied, a servile obedience to the measures of the minister of the day.

General Græme was particularly instructed to attend to the education which she had received, and the extent of her literary attainments.

The following is a concise account of the early years of the princess, who was destined to share the throne and bed of the king of England:

Sophia Charlotte was the younger of the two daughters of Charles Lewis, duke of Mirow, by Albertine Elizabeth, daughter of Ernest Frederick, duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

This prince, Charles Lewis, being the second son of the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, entered into the imperial service at an early age; and, by his noble conduct, soon attained the rank of lieutenant-general. On his marriage he went to settle at Mirow, where all his children, consisting of four sons and two daughters, were born. He died in 1751, the very year that his late majesty lost his father; and a few months afterwards Adolphus Frederick, the third duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, departed this life, when that title devolved upon the elder son of prince Charles Lewis, who, with his mother and all the family, removed in consequence from Mirow to Strelitz. Here the princess Charlotte, then seven years old, received her education under the direction of Madame de Grubow, a lady of high endow-

ments, and noble family, who, on account of her lyrical compositions, obtained the title of the German Sappho.

Independently of Madame de Grubow, other persons of the first talent were employed in the instruction of her serene highness, who was the delight of the whole family for the sweetness of her temper, and the quickness of her genius. The principal of these tutors, Dr. Genzmer, a Lutheran divine of considerable learning, and particularly distinguished for his extensive knowledge in natural history, was called from Stargard to Strelitz, where he resided at the palace, till the marriage of the princess rendered his presence there no longer necessary. Under his instructions, the princess made a great progress in every polite and useful branch of knowledge. She acquired a thorough acquaintance with the French and Italian languages, while she wrote her own not only correctly, but elegantly*.

General Græme had not resided a long time at Pyrmont, before he completely succeeded in insinuating himself into the society of the Strelitz family, and many opportunities presented themselves of enabling him to form a pretty accurate estimate of the character of the princess Charlotte. There was, however, one particular circumstance in her conduct which ex-

*To those of our readers, who are conversant with the German language, the following beautiful poem, which was written by her late majesty, at the age of sixteen, will be highly acceptable. It is equal to some of the most classical compositions of Voss or Wieland:—

Blüthen des Mayes, peitscht der Nordsturm
Eure duftenden Kränze, feindlich schlagen
Seine dustern fittige eure Häupter,
Kinder des Frühlings.

Blüthen ihr seufzt; es goss so milden schimmer
Gottes Sonne herab, da ihr erwachtet;
Freundlich spielten schmeichelnde strahlen um die
Brechende knospen.

Blüthen ihr sinkt, des Frühlings Zauberlüfte
Retten nimmer vom Tode die Gesunkenen
Dass ihr welkt im blühenden Lebensmorgen
Wollen die Götter.

Segen den Blüthen, segen auch dem jüdling
Wenn nur spuren des flucht' gen Lebens bleiben
Und an edlen Früchten mit stillem Danke
Wandrer sich laben.

cited the curiosity of the general; and, although in any other capacity than that in which he was secretly employed, he would not have deemed it worth his time to have taken even the most distant notice of any apparent eccentricity of conduct, which might have characterized the princess Charlotte, yet as he was resolved to watch her with the eyes of an Argus, any thing bordering upon mystery was to him a subject of serious consequence; and his curiosity was not a little increased by the singularity of her conduct having also excited the attention of her sister, and which became at length the subject of a confidential conversation between them. The circumstances of this case were as follow, and the result of which redounded so much to the honour of the princess. The evenings at Pyrmont were generally spent at cards or lotto; and the princess Charlotte, in the presence of general Græme, often expressed her great satisfaction on being the winner. This was construed by the observant negotiator into an indication of an avaricious disposition, and the frown of dissatisfaction which sat upon her brow when she was the loser, confirmed the general in his opinion. It, however, happened that, whenever the princess had been the winner of a considerable sum, on the following morning she was not to be found at her residence, and on inquiry being made of the porter at the gate, it was ascertained that the princess was gone out dressed like the simple lady. Although general Græme was deputed to investigate most minutely every trait of the character of the princess, yet his honour would not allow him to stoop so low as to be a spy upon her private actions, and accordingly he put that construction upon them, which the nature of the circumstances would admit. He did not think himself authorized to follow the princess in her morning perambulations, and yet his curiosity was every morning

more and more excited to discover the motive of them. Accident will very often effect what the most consummate management, or deep-laid art will never achieve; and to accident was the general indebted for the solution of the mysterious conduct of the princess. He was himself walking one morning in company with baron Zesterfleth, when, to their great surprise, they beheld the princess coming out of a mean cottage which stood by the road-side, and about which some children, excessively neatly dressed, were playing. Politeness would not admit them to accost the princess, and, therefore, they turned into a bye-path, until she had passed them. The general now supposed he had discovered the clue to the cause of her morning visits, and without any ceremony he entered the cottage which the princess had just left. On the table lay a small roll of rix-dollars, and every thing in the interior bespoke an extraordinary degree of comfort and convenience. After some desultory conversation, the general directed his inquiries in rather an artful manner respecting the lady, who had just left the cottage; and he then discovered that the family had been raised from a degree of complete indigence to a state of comparative affluence by the bounty of the princess, and that all her winnings at cards had been appropriated to the establishment of the comfort and happiness of the cottager's family. Such a beautiful trait in her character could not fail of exalting her in the good opinion of the general, and another circumstance, which shortly after came to his knowledge, confirmed him in the favourable impressions which he had formed of the amiable dispositions of her heart.

The territory of Mecklenburg had been taken possession of by the troops of the king of Prussia, and the greatest enormities had been committed, which could disgrace the troops

of a civilized power. A statement of these atrocities was made to the princess Charlotte; she felt for the sufferings of the people amongst whom she was born, and immediately wrote the following letter to the king of Prussia:

May it please your majesty,

I am at a loss whether I shall congratulate or condole with you on your late victory; since the same success that crowns you with laurels, has overspread the country of Mecklenburg with desolation. I know, Sire, that it seems unbecoming in my sex, in this age of vicious refinement, to feel for one's country, to lament the horrors of war, or to wish for the return of peace. I know you may think it more properly my province to study the arts of pleasing, or to turn my thoughts to subjects of a more domestic nature: but however unbecoming it may be in me, I cannot resist the desire of interceding for this unhappy people.

It was but a few years ago that this territory wore the most pleasing appearance; the country was cultivated, the peasants looked cheerful, and the towns abounded with riches and festivity. What an alteration at present from such a charming scene! I am not expert at description, nor can my fancy add any horrors to the picture; but sure even conquerors themselves would weep at the hideous prospect now before me. The whole country, my dear country, lies one frightful waste, presenting only objects to excite pity, terror, and despair. The business of the husbandman and the shepherd is quite discontinued; the husbandman and shepherd are become soldiers themselves, and help to ravage the soil they formerly occupied. The towns are inhabited only by old men, women, and children: perhaps here or there a warrior, by wounds or loss of limbs, rendered unfit for service, left at his door: his little children hang round him, ask a history of every wound, and grow themselves soldiers before they find strength for the field. But this were nothing, did we not feel the alternate insolence of each army, as it happens to advance or retreat. It is impossible to express the confusion which even those who call themselves our friends, excite. Even those from whom we might expect redress, oppress us with new calamities. From your justice, therefore, it is that we hope for relief; to you even children and women may complain, whose humanity stoops to the meanest peti-

tion, and whose power is capable of repressing the greatest injustice.—I am, Sire, &c. &c.

The king of Prussia was at this time privy to the circumstance of negotiators being at several courts in Germany for the purpose of selecting a princess suitable to share the crown of England, and he despatched a copy of the above letter to the king of England, accompanied with this highly-flattering expression, that a princess who could make so powerful an appeal in behalf of an injured people, was worthy to sit upon the first throne of Europe; and, it is reported, that the youthful monarch had no sooner perused it, than he exclaimed to lord Hertford, "This is the lady whom I shall select for my consort; here are lasting beauties on which the man who has any mind may feast, and not be satiated. If the disposition of the princess but equals her refined sense, I shall be the happiest man, as I hope with my people's concurrence, to be the greatest monarch in Europe." The negotiations for the marriage were immediately entered into, and the earl of Harcourt, his majesty's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, concluded the treaty on the 15th of August.

Whilst these circumstances were transacting abroad, the necessary preparations were making at home for the reception of the intended bride, and for the due observance of the formalities of the coronation. According to the proclamation which was issued by his majesty, the several claims were given in on the 21st for the services to be performed at the coronation, and which were in many respects similar to those claimed at the coronation of king James II. and his queen in 1684. They were as follows:

The lord great chamberlain of England claimed at the said coronation to carry the king his shirt and clothes the morning of the coronation, and with the lord chamberlain to dress the king. To have forty yards of crim-

son velvet for a robe, also the king's bed and bedding, and furniture of his chamber where he lay the night before, with his wearing apparel and night-gown: also to serve the king with water, before and after dinner, and to have the basins and towels, and cup of assay.—

Allowed, except the cup of assay. He received the forty yards of velvet, and the rest of the fees were compounded for 200*l*.

2. The earl of Derby counterclaimed the office of lord great chamberlain, with the fees, &c., but was not allowed.

3. The king's champion claimed his office as lord of Scrivelsby manor in Lincolnshire; to perform the said office, and to have a gold cup and cover, with the horse on which he rides, the saddle, armour, and furniture, and twenty yards of crimson satin.—Allowed, except the twenty yards of satin.

4. The said office counterclaimed by another branch of the said family, but not allowed.

5. The lord of the manor of Lyston, in Essex, claimed to make wafers for the king and queen, and to serve them up to their table, to have all the instruments of silver and other metal used about the same, with the linen, and certain proportions of ingredients, and other necessities and liveries for himself and two men.—Allowed, and the service, with his consent, performed by the king's officers, and the fees compounded for 30*l*.

6. The lord mayor and citizens of London claimed to serve the king with wine after dinner, in a gold cup, and to have the same cup and cover for his fee, and with twelve other citizens by them appointed, to assist the chief butler of England in the butlership, and to have a table on the left hand of the hall.—Not allowed in the reign of king James, because the liberties of the city were then seized into the king's hands: and yet they executed the office, *ex gratia*, and dined in the hall, and had a gold cup for their fee.

7. The said lord mayor and citizens of London claimed to serve the queen in like manner; and were only disallowed, at that time, for the same reason.

8. The mayor and burgesses of Oxford, by charter, claim to serve in office of butlership to the king with the citizens of London, with all fees thereunto belonging.—Allowed, and to have three maple cups for their fee; and also, *ex gratia regis*, a large gilt bowl and cover.

9. The lord of the manor of Bardolph, in Addington,

Surrey, claimed to find a man to make a mess of grout in the king's kitchen, and therefore praying, that the king's master cook might perform that service.—Allowed, and the said lord of the manor brought it up to the king's table.

10. The lord of the manor of Ilmer, in Bucks, claimed to be marshal, surveyor, and conservator of his majesty's hawks in England, with divers fees, and a nomination of under-offices.—Not allowed, because not respecting the coronation, but left to take his course at law if he thought fit.

11. The lord of the manor of Little Walden, who at that time was also seized of the bailiwicks of keeper of the king's buckhounds, claimed to be keeper and master of the same, and to keep twenty-four buckhounds, and sixteen harriers, and to have certain fees and liveries for himself and servants.—Disallowed, for the same reason as the former, but left to take his course at law.

12. The master of the king's great wardrobe claimed to receive from the deputy a pall of cloth of gold, and to carry it to the altar for the king to offer, and that his deputy should attend near the garter king of arms, in a robe of scarlet cloth, with a gold crown embroidered on the left sleeve.—Not allowed, but left to take his course at law, if he thought fit.

13. The clerk of the great wardrobe claimed to bring a rich pall of cloth of gold, to be held over the king's head while he is anointed, as also the arml of cloth of tissue, and to attend near garter king of arms, in a robe of scarlet cloth, with a crown embroidered on the left sleeve.—Not allowed, but left to take his course at law, if he thought fit.

14. The master of the horse to the king claimed to attend at the coronation as sergeant of the silver scullery, and to have all the silver dishes and plates served on that day to the king's table, with the fees thereto belonging, and to make assay of the king's meat at the Kitchen dresser bar.—Not allowed, because not claimed heretofore; but left to make application to the king; who was pleased to allow the said service and fees, as the duke of Albemarle enjoyed them on the coronation of king Charles II. by virtue of the same post.

15. The lord of the manor of Nether Bilsington, Kent, claimed to present the king with three maple cups, by himself or deputy.—Allowed.

16. The lord of the manor and hundred of Wynfred,

Dorset, claimed to serve the king with water for his hands, and to have the basin and ewer for his fee.—Not allowed, but left to make his application to the king, if he thought fit.

17. The duke of Norfolk, as the first earl of England, claimed to redeem the sword offered by the king at the altar, and to carry it before his majesty, in his return to his palace, and reservation of other rights and dignities, with fees, &c.

18. And also, as earl of Surrey, claimed to carry the second sword before the king, with all privileges and dignities thereto belonging.—Neither of which allowed, the claims not being made out, and the same being disallowed at the last coronation.

19. The earl of Exeter, } As seized of several parts
20. Sir George Blundell, } of the barony of Bedford,
21. Thomas Snaggs, } respectively claimed to execute the office of almoner; and, as the fees of that office, to have the silver alms-basin, and the distribution of all the silver therein, and of the cloth spread for their majesties to walk on; as also the fine linen towel, a tun of wine, &c. On reference to the king to appoint which of them he pleased, the earl was appointed, *pro hac vice*, with a *salvo jure* to the other two; but the silver dish, and the cloth from the throne in Westminster-hall to the west door of the Abbey-church, were only allowed.

22. The dean and chapter of Westminster claimed to instruct the king in the rites and ceremonies used at the coronation; to assist the archbishop in divine service; to have the custody of the coronation robes; to have robes for the dean and his three chaplains, and for sixteen ministers of the said church; the royal habits put off in the church, the several oblations, furniture of the church, canopy, staves, and bells, and the cloth on which their majesties walk from the west door of the church to the theatre, &c.—Allowed, except the custody of the regalia, and the fees referred to the king's pleasure.

23. The churchwardens of St. Margaret's, Westminster, claimed to have the cloth (lying in their parish) whereon the king goes in procession, for the use of the poor.

24. The vicar and churchwardens of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, claimed a share in the said cloth for their poor.—Which claims were only read, and not admitted.

25. The earl marshal of England claimed to appease

the debates that might arise in the king's house on this day; to keep the doors of the same; and of the abbey, &c., and to dispose of the places to the nobles, &c., with all fees belonging thereto.—Disallowed, as unprecedented: and several of the particulars being counter-claimed by the lord great chamberlain; but with a *salvo jure* to the earl marshal.

26. The lord of the manor of Ashlee, Norfolk, claimed to perform the office of the napery, and to have all the table-linen when taken away.—Not allowed, because that he had not the evidence ready to make it out, but with a *salvo jure*.

27. The earl of Derby, as seized in fee of the isle and castle of Pelham, and dominion of Man, claimed to present the king with two falcons on this day.—Which was allowed, and the falcons presented accordingly.

28. The earl of Kent claimed to carry the great spurs before the king; but not being made out, was not allowed.

29. The same counter-claimed by the lord de Grey of Thyn, and allowed.

30. The same counter-claimed by the duke of Norfolk, as earl of Surrey: but disallowed for want of evidence, and because it was not admitted at the preceding coronation.

31. The barons of the Cinque-ports claimed to carry the canopy over the king, and to have the same with the staves and bells for their fees, and to dine in the hall on the king's right hand.—Allowed.

32. The lord of the manor of Scoulton, alias Bourdelies, Norfolk, claimed to be chief larderer; and to have for his fees the provisions remaining after dinner in the larder. Which office and fees, and also that of caterer, were likewise,

33. Counter-claimed by the lord of the manor of Easton at the Mount, Essex; and on reference to the king, it appearing that other manors were also severally held by the same service, the former was appointed *pro hac vice*, with a *salvo jure* to the other.

34. The lord of the manor of Worksop, Nottingham, claimed to find the king a right-hand glove, and to support the king's right arm while he holds the sceptre.—Allowed.

35. Bishops of Durham, and Bath and Wells, claimed to support the king in the procession.—Allowed, the king having graciously consented thereto; and the Bishops of

London and Winchester being appointed to support the queen.

36. The lord of the manor of Fyngryth, Essex, claimed to be chamberlain to the queen for the day, and to have the queen's bed and furniture, the basins, &c., belonging to the office; and to have a clerk in the Exchequer to demand and receive the queen's gold, &c.—Disallowed, because not made out, but left to prosecute it at law, if he thought fit.

37. The lord of the manor of Great Wymondley, Hertfordshire, claimed (as chief cup-bearer) to serve the king with the first cup of silver-gilt, at dinner; and to have the cup for his fee.—Allowed.

38. The lord of the manor of Heydon, Essex, claimed to hold the basin and ewer to the king, by virtue of one moiety, and the towel by virtue of another moiety, of the said manor, when the king washes before dinner.—Allowed as to the towel only.

39. The duke of Norfolk, as earl of Arundel, and lord of Kenninghall-manor, Norfolk, claimed to perform by deputy the office of chief butler of England, and to have for his fees the best gold cup and cover, with all the vessels and wine remaining under the bar, and all the pots and cups, except those of gold and silver, in the wine-cellar after dinner.—Allowed, with only the fee of a cup and ewer.

There are few circumstances of an interesting nature, respecting the private life of our late monarch, on which the historian can dilate just previously to his marriage and coronation. The war with Spain was forgotten in the interest which those two great events necessarily excited, and the ministry were able to carry on their plans almost unperceived and unnoticed by the people.

On the 3d of June, Omar Effendi, the new ambassador from Algiers, had his first audience of his majesty to deliver his credentials, and it was attended with some circumstances which afforded a high degree of amusement to his majesty. The ambassador brought over, as presents to the king, twenty-four fine horses, a lion, two tigers, and some curious sheep. The

ambassador, forgetting he was not at Algiers, or with all due consideration to the dignity of the important personage whom he represented, was very desirous of having the lion and tigers led before him in the procession, such being the custom, he declared, in his own country; his request, however, could not be granted; the fine horses and curious sheep were, however, admitted into the procession. But here another difficulty arose; he wished that the animals might actually be driven into the presence of the king, that he might report to his master, that he had delivered them with his own hands. On being informed that this could not be granted, as the horses could not ascend the stairs, he wished to be informed, whether, as the horses could not ascend to the king, the king could not descend to them—on this being answered in the negative, he was highly displeased, and he was not pacified until he was assured by the lords in waiting, that such a condescension on the part of his majesty was wholly contrary to the custom of the country. The animals were then driven into the royal garden, and his majesty viewed them from the window of the palace. The ambassador was then admitted into the royal presence, and he apologized to his majesty for his not being attended with the lion and the tigers; but his majesty, in a happy manner, diverted the discourse, by expressing his grief that his excellency had such a bad day for his public entry. “No, Sire,” said the ambassador, “*it is not a bad day, it is a very fine, it is a glorious day for me, when I have the honour to behold so great a monarch as your majesty.*”

The following day being the anniversary of his majesty's birth-day, it was celebrated with the utmost demonstrations of joy. There never was a more brilliant court on any occasion. Most of the ladies' dresses were gold and silver brocade. In the evening some curious fire-

works were discharged on Tower-hill, St. James's-square, Leicester-fields, Kew and Richmond. The cabinet ministers held their accustomed dinners on the occasion, and that given by the duke of Newcastle exceeded all the others in expense and magnificence. At the latter was a most curious dessert, representing the citadel of Palais, and his majesty's forces besieging it.

On the 5th of June, the common-council of the city of London paid a most loyal compliment to his majesty, by passing the following resolution :

That the freedom of this city be humbly presented to his royal highness Edward Augustus, duke of York and Albany, one of the rear-admirals of the blue squadron of his majesty's fleet, in a gold box of 150 guineas value, in testimony of the dutiful affection of this court for their illustrious sovereign, whose peculiar glory it is to reign over a free, happy, and united people, and as a pledge of the grateful respect they bear his royal highness for his early entrance into the naval service of his king and country, the noblest and most effectual bulwark of the wealth, reputation, and independence of this commercial nation.

And on the 15th it was unanimously resolved, at a court of aldermen and common-council, to present a congratulatory address to his majesty on the conquest of Belleisle. Which was done accordingly, on the 17th, in this form :

The address of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the city of London, to his majesty, on the taking of Belleisle.

Most gracious sovereign,

With reverential awe and gratitude to the supreme Giver of all victory, we, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of your city of London, in common-council assembled, humbly approach your royal presence, to express our joy and exultation on the entire reduction of the important island of Belleisle, by the conduct, intrepidity,

and perseverance of your majesty's land and naval forces : a conquest, which after more than one fruitless attempt in former times, seems to have been reserved by Divine Providence to grace the auspicious beginnings of your majesty's reign, and confirms our hopes of a long continuance of wise, steady, and successful measures.

A blow so humiliating to the pride and power of France, cannot, but impress that haughty nation with a due sense of the superiority of a patriot king, ruling over a free, brave, and united people ; and will, we trust, convince them of the danger of delaying to accept such terms of peace as your majesty's equity, wisdom, and moderation, shall think fit to prescribe.

What, therefore, have we more to wish, but that your majesty may long, very long, continue the guardian and protector of the religious, civil, and commercial rights of Great Britain, and her colonies ; and that your majesty's wisdom may ever be seconded by equally faithful and spirited councils ; and your commands executed with no less ardour, emulation, and success ?

On our part, permit us humbly to assure your majesty, that your faithful citizens of London will, with unwearied zeal and cheerfulness, contribute to support a vigorous prosecution of this just and necessary war ; until your majesty, having sufficiently vindicated the honour of your crown, and secured the trade, navigation, and possessions of your subjects, shall enjoy the blessing and glory of giving repose to Europe, of wholly attending to, and promoting, the virtue and happiness of your people, and of cultivating all the softer arts of peace.

His majesty's most gracious answer :

I return you my hearty thanks for this fresh mark of your affection to my person, and of your constant zeal for the lustre of my arms, and for the glory of my reign. Your repeated assurances of cheerful and steady support in the prosecution of this necessary war, are most highly pleasing to me, and cannot fail to promote the desirable object of peace, on just, honourable, and advantageous conditions. The city of London may always depend on my unwearied endeavours for the security and extension of their trade, navigation, and commerce.

At a very early period of his reign, his majesty testified great repugnance to affixing his

signature to those state warrants, which annually sweep away so many malefactors, who have infringed the laws of the country; and he was particularly happy on all occasions, when some gleam of hope appeared in the cases which were laid before him, by which the royal prerogative of mercy could be exercised. We shall have frequent opportunities of reverting to this amiable trait in his majesty's character, and it has been merely noticed in this place to introduce a singular incident which occurred to him at this time, during one of his walks in the vicinity of Kew.

A man of the name of George King had been convicted in Dublin of a capital felony. He drew up a memorial to his majesty, and one morning, as the king was walking at an early hour, it was delivered to him by an aged woman, and in the envelope the following lines were written:

George King to king George sends his humble petition,
Hoping king George will pity poor George King's condition;
If king George to George King will grant a long day,
George King for king George for ever will pray.

His majesty accepted the memorial with the utmost condescension, and an inquiry was immediately instituted into the case of the convict. The result was the commutation of his sentence of death to that of transportation for life. Whenever necessity obliged his majesty to perform that awful part of his duty, the signature of a death-warrant, it had always such an effect upon his feelings, that it was some time before he regained his wonted composure. He was often noticed to walk to and fro in a hurried manner, and to betray other striking symptoms of a heart ill at ease. On one of these sad occasions, during his residence at Kew, when the recorder had taken his leave, the king retreated to an alcove in the garden, immediately after the fall of a mild

shower of rain, when a worm crawled upon the ground, at the feet of his majesty, with which the following sort of parley was heard to take place:—"Ah! Ah! little worm, how ventures thou to appear before me, who has thus the power of crushing thee to death," holding his foot raised over it—"No! no! thy life *I can* spare; thou who hast a right to live as well as I, thy brother worm." This circumstance had such an effect upon the feeling heart of his majesty, that it led to the respite of the men whose death-warrant he had just signed.

The approaching marriage of the king now occupied the general attention, and it is a curious fact, that an unforeseen difficulty occurred in settling the form of the ceremonial to be observed, for want of a precedent. The following is an extract of a letter on this subject, from Dr. Birch, librarian of the British Museum, dated 3rd of July, 1761:

Upon an hasty consideration of your question, I am inclined to think that no form of marriage suitable to the circumstances of his present majesty can be produced. You will judge of the reasons of my doubts from a review of the several sovereigns of this kingdom since the accession of Henry VIII. to the throne. He was undoubtedly married to every one of his wives, according to the ritual of the church of Rome. His example in this point was followed by his daughter Mary, who was married to Philip, prince of Spain, at Winchester, in July, 1554, by bishop Gardiner; archbishop Cranmer being then in prison. Her brother, Edward VI., and her sister Elizabeth, you know, both died unmarried. James I. was married several years before he came to England, to the princess of Denmark, at Upstors in Norway, the ceremony being performed by Mr. D. Lindesey, minister of Leith, in the French language. Charles I.'s marriage was solemnized at Paris, the duke of Chareuse being his proxy. Charles II.'s queen scrupling the offices of the church, he only took her by the hand, in the Presence Chamber at Portsmouth, and said the words of matrimony in the Common Prayer

Book, "I, Charles, take thee, Catherine," &c., the queen declaring her consent, and Dr. Sheldon, bishop of London, standing forth and declaring them man and wife, in the name of the Father, &c. This I have seen a particular account of, in a letter of Weston, earl of Portland, to lord Clarendon. The first marriage of James II., (then duke of York), which was to lord chancellor Clarendon's daughter, was a private one, performed at Worcester-house, Sept. 3, 1660, by Dr. Crowther, the duke's chaplain; the second, to the princess of Modena, was performed at Dover, in November, 1673, on the day of her arrival, by Dr. Crewe, then bishop of Oxford, and afterwards of Durham. The two last kings, George I. and II., were married before they came to the throne.

In the mean time the fleet appointed to bring over her most serene highness put to sea on the 8th of August, and on the 14th lord Harcourt and the other lords and ladies sent on this important embassy arrived at Strelitz. These ladies were the duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton, two of the finest women in the British court. The next morning at eleven, the earl of Harcourt performed the ceremony of asking in form her serene highness in marriage for the king his master. The moment the contract of marriage was signed, the cannon fired. Her royal highness was afterwards complimented by the states of the country, and the deputies of the towns. She dined at a separate table with the princess of Schwartz-

bourg, her grand-aunt, and the princess Sophia, her sister. Her royal highness was served by M. de Zesterfleth*, grand marshal of the court; M. de Knesebeck, marshal of the court; and the Misses Seltern and Rauchbar, ladies of the court. M. de Dewitz, privy-councillor of legation, did the honours of the table standing. His serene highness the duke dined with the English minister, and several ladies and gentlemen, at a large table in a saloon. Four tables of upwards of 160 covers were served in two other apartments. In the evening the gardens of the castle were illuminated with above 40,000 lamps. Castle-street and the market were also illuminated. On the 16th there was a grand festival and entertainment. In short, the splendour of the court of Mecklenburg-Strelitz on this occasion was infinitely beyond the conception of those who attended the important occasion. Lord Harcourt was received there with a grandeur easier to be conceived than expressed. His lordship never stirred without a body-guard to attend him, which, it is said, consisted of remarkably tall men, called Heidukes, who made a formidable and handsome appearance.

On the 17th, her highness, accompanied by the reigning duke her brother, set out for Mirow, amidst the tears and prayers of all ranks

* Baron Zesterfleth was a particular favourite of her late majesty. He was an excellent scholar, without any mixture of pedantry, and a sincere Christian, without the least leaven of dissimulation. His innocence of manners was such as could hardly be expected to be seen amidst the pleasures of a court. He always rose at four o'clock—shaved himself without water, and never made use of a glass. No servant ever saw him in an undress. He was so modest in conversing with ladies, that he would not permit them to touch his hands; and when they attempted it out of pleasantry, he always secured them in his breeches pocket. His integrity was almost without a parallel, and no man living ever had a greater contempt for money. The following anecdote will be a sufficient proof of it:—The duchess of Mecklenburg, her late majesty's aunt, knowing that the baron had a fancy for a horse of a particular breed, and that he would not accept of it as a present, ordered a person in her confidence to buy one, and deliver it to his groom, with directions to say, that it was a stray horse. The baron believed the story, but he had the horse cried in the public market; and, as it was not owned, every body concluded that the baron had a right to keep him; but he was of a different opinion himself—the horse, he said, did not belong to him, and, not having a particular owner, was become of course public property, therefore he would sell the horse, and distribute the money amongst the poor, which he accordingly did.

of people, the poor in particular, whose zealous patroness she had always shewn herself.

The following account of the honours which were paid to her serene highness on leaving Strelitz, is contained in a letter of Mr. Tangatz, who was present on the occasion.

The town of Old Strelitz was desirous of expressing its regard to the illustrious princess Charlotta Sophia, born duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, on her espousals to his majesty George III. king of Great Britain, and of wishing her a happy voyage to England, at her setting out from the bounds of its territory. On the 17th of August, 1761, was erected in a plain a triumphal arch thirty-two feet in height, with two pillars in front; and close to it was a platform of 500 paces, on which were drawn up the three companies of the town militia under arms, and their colours flying. On each side of the front of the triumphal arch were two green bowers, and a tent, with variety of refreshments for the spectators; of whom there was a prodigious number from the towns in the neighbourhood, so that they covered the heights near the triumphal arch. The multitude of persons, carriages, and horses, formed a most cheerful prospect, and among the spectators were the worthy magistrates of New Strelitz.

The triumphal arch was decorated with natural foliage and festoons, and over it two terrestrial globes in the geographical divisions, viz., in the first Europe, Asia, and Africa, and in the other America. Great Britain and Ireland were encircled with a wreath of laurel. In Europe, was the Elbe with the Havel running into it, and at the source of the latter, Mirow, as the birth-place of the royal bride: in Asia, the river Ganges, with its many mouths, the province of Coromandel and Pondicherry: in Africa, the Senegal, and at its issue Fort Lewis:

in America, the river St. Lawrence with Quebec, likewise the Mississippi: in the Leeward and Windward Islands, Mariegalante, Guadaloupe, and Dominica, all marked in capital letters, as having been reduced by the British fleet. The two globes were surmounted with the arms of Great Britain and Mecklenburg joined. On the back part of the triumphal arch were represented Autumn and Spring, in their attributes of ripe fruits and flowers, with an inscription to the following effect:

Pomona soon succeeds to Flora,
And the bridal chamber supersedes the grave.

On each side, within the triumphal arch, stood six reputable townsmen's daughters, between eleven and twelve years of age, in white jackets and petticoats, with light-blue ribbons, and their hair dressed in natural flowers. Each had in her hand a wreath of myrtle something above the bigness of a crown, thus waiting the princess's coming.

On the skirt of our field towards New Strelitz stood a captain of our town horse, in a blue uniform, with sixteen troopers, in order to join the cavalcade attending on her royal highness, and conduct them to the above-mentioned platform.

This illustrious procession was headed by marshal Zesterfleth, with two running footmen: then came in coaches and six our beloved sovereign the duke, with his brother prince Charles, attended by several running footmen, and a body of horse-guards; and, as they passed through the triumphal arch, the burghers saluted them with their arms, colours, and music.

After the march of the horse came the royal bride herself, in a coach of state drawn by six horses, the princess her sister sitting on her left hand, and in the front of the coach the countess Cocceius, spouse to the nobleman of

that name, the eminent lord chancellor of Prussia. Her royal highness was pleased to stop under the triumphal arch; and, after an address delivered by burgomaster Tangatz, in the name of the corporation and citizens, condescended, with the most endearing complacency, to hear the children repeat their congratulatory verses; after which, with a graceful respect and sprightliness, they threw their myrtle wreaths to her highness into the coach. She expressed her satisfaction in those gracious terms which were ever natural to her, and by which, in her tender years, she conciliated the unalterable love and esteem of all ranks.

After her royal highness immediately followed a party of twelve of the horse-guards, an empty state coach and six, the earl of Harcourt with his son likewise in a coach and six, and who was observed to view with sensible pleasure both the emblem over the triumphal arch, and the twelve children who had acquitted themselves so handsomely, and gave each of them a ducat; after the earl came Mr. counsellor Hardenburg from Hanover: the cavalcade was closed by nearly thirty coaches, and every thing passed suitably to the joyful occasion.

Address of the Burgomasters, Magistrates, and Citizens of Strelitz, to her Royal Highness the most illustrious Princess Sophia Charlotta, Duchess of Mecklenburg, Princess of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, and Countess of Schwerin, and the countries of Rostock and Stargard, on her leaving the territories of the said city, on her way to England, as the Royal Bride of his most potent and most illustrious Majesty George III., King of Great Britain, &c. &c.

ILLUSTRIOUS DUCHESS; MOST GRACIOUS
PRINCESS AND LADY,

Your royal highness is at present leaving that country whose happiness it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect princess. You leave it to share with the greatest monarch in Europe a throne respected

through every part of the universe. The instant is at hand when your royal highness will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more sensibly from the apprehension that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled, will efface so small a place as ours, from your inestimable remembrance; yet that goodness which we have hitherto with transport admired in your royal highness, revives our spirits: it assures us that you will, even from the throne, condescend graciously to look back on our town, and continue the patroness of those, whose happiness it is to be the subjects of your illustrious family. We therefore in full confidence give ourselves up to that lively joy excited in us all, on the glorious union to which the Divine Providence has called your royal highness, and beg leave to accompany you with our most cordial wishes for your safe journey, and continual welfare and prosperity.

May the Eternal Ruler of all things, who hath appointed this great event, make your royal highness the most perfect instance of felicity; the delight of that royal family into which you are now entering, the joy of Britain, and the glory of the illustrious house of Mecklenburg.

May our illustrious sovereign, the beloved Adolphus Frederick, long and in all earthly happiness, together with his faithful and happy subjects, rejoice in these felicities!

Your royal highness will graciously permit that twelve of our daughters, here present in the attire of innocence, may, as a memorial of this fortunate event, second the ardent sentiments of their fathers, and in artless words most humbly wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

The young ladies then advanced, and respectively addressed the princess in the following stanzas:—

1. *Eleonora Dorothea Maria Bertzhoven.*
Mail princess, with each shining virtue bright,
All pure within, without all glorious light;
Whose form divine, whose goodness we adore;
Heaven bless thy parting from the German shore.

2. *Christiana Juliana Elizabeth Berendsen.*
As consort of a mighty monarch shine,
Restore the honours of an ancient line;
For this thy coming Britain's king invites,
For this he calls to Hymen's soft delights.

3. *Dorothea Elizabeth Tettingen.*

Thy soul with each divinest virtue fraught,
Thy wisdom perfect both in word and thought;
Each British bosom shall with raptures fire,
And Faction sleep whilst gazing crowds admire.

4. *Sophia Elizabeth Gradhandlen.*

When seated by thy royal consort's side,
New lustre he shall gain from such a bride.
Her worth shall grace the sacred nuptial ties,
And Britain's throne in dignity shall rise.

5. *Carolina Henrietta Tangatz.*

O God, whose mercies through the world abound,
Whose power supports the king thy hand has crown'd;
Waft o'er the main the bride's transcendent charms
In safety to the bridegroom's longing arms.

6. *Dorothea Gauen.*

May she with each endearing art possess,
To pleasure ever sooth the monarch's breast;
May all the royal virtues of her heart
To faithful subjects joy sincere impart.

7. *Anna Maria Elizabeth Christen.*

Britons, rejoice; receive with loud acclaim
Sophia Charlotte, ever dear to fame;
Delight of Mecklenburg, she comes to shower
On Britain's Isle new blessings every hour.

8. *Christina Sophia Soalow.*

From Ganges to where Mississippi flows,
Diffusing wealth and plenty as it goes;
From Senegal still scorched by Phœbus' beam
To where St. Lawrence rolls his silver stream,
Proclaim Britannia's bliss the world around,
From pole to pole, to earth's remotest bound.

9. *Christina Elizabeth Phuelen.*

Its wish auspicious Havel hastes to bring
For fair Charlotta and for Britain's king;
On Britain's isle all blessings he implores,
And rolls his friendly wave to Albion's shores.

10. *Dorothea Christiana Elizabeth Reiseken.*

Beneath the Lord's anointed may she thrive,
Still may his influence keep the palm alive:
Still may it flourish, branches still extend,
Afford us shelter, and from heat defend.

11. *Magdalen Elizabeth Colterjahn.*

Thrice happy bride, who soon shall cross the main,
Whom to behold again we wish in vain;
May happiness unceasing with thee dwell;
To every age may Fame thy glory tell.

12. *Catharina Sophia Bertowen.*

Nought can our brothers' ardent zeal restrain;
Fain would they tempt with thee the roaring main;
Permit them, queen, thy person to be near,
That of thy safety tidings we may hear.

Chorus.

Yet for one favour more we must apply,
But little can these barren tracts supply;
Permit us, since both gold and pearls you scorn,
Your royal brows with myrtle to adorn.

The 18th she arrived at Perleberg, where she was complimented by the count de Gotter, in the name of his Prussian majesty, who had ordered that no post-money should be taken for any of the horses and carriages attending her highness; but when they arrived at the end of his territories, her most serene highness ordered a considerable sum of money to be given to the Prussian hunters who escorted her.

On the 19th, her most serene highness continued her journey by Leutzen for Ghorde, where she dined twice in public, and walked in the afternoon in the park. On the 22d, at seven o'clock in the evening, she arrived at Stade, under a general discharge of the cannon of the place, and amidst the acclamations of a vast number of people, both citizens and foreigners. The burgesses of Stade were assembled under arms, and lined the streets through which her most serene highness passed. Some of the principal ladies of the town presented her with verses on her majesty's approaching nuptials on velvet cushions. At nine o'clock the whole town was illuminated, and several triumphal arches were erected in the principal streets, on which were placed many small lamps and inscriptions

analogous to the feast. The same night their marks of public joy were reiterated. Next morning she set out for Cuxhaven; and about ten, her most serene highness embarked on board the yacht, amidst the acclamations of the people, accompanied by the duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton, the earl of Harcourt and lord Anson. She was saluted by the whole squadron destined to convoy her to England. They were ranged on each side the yacht. The moment she entered her cabin, she saluted the officers of the different ships, who had crowded the decks in order to have the pleasure of seeing her, and were all charmed with her affable and polite behaviour.

In the boat in which her majesty crossed a branch of the Elbe, was fixed a table, covered with all sorts of fruit. When crossed, there being no house, huts were prepared for her attendants, and a grand tent for herself, where she dined. The dinner at this place was provided for three hundred people, by his majesty's cooks, who came from Hanover for that purpose.

At Buxtehude her most serene highness was addressed by the fellowship of merchant adventurers of England, residing at Hamburg, and gave them a most gracious answer.

On the 28th, the fleet, having on board her most serene highness, put to sea, but as no despatches were received from it from that time till its arrival at Harwich, the court was in some concern lest the tediousness of her voyage might affect her health; besides, as the day fixed for the coronation of his majesty, by a proclamation issued from the same council, in which his majesty had declared his intention to demand her serene highness in marriage, was drawing

near, his majesty was desirous that the ceremony of the nuptials might precede that of the coronation; so that fresh instructions, it is said, were despatched to the admiral to sail at all events, and to land his charge at any of the ports of Great Britain, where it could be done with safety. At length, after three different storms, and being often in sight of the English coast, and in danger of being driven on that of Norway, the fleet, with her most serene highness on board, arrived at Harwich, September 6th. Her most serene highness, during her tedious passage, continued in very good health and spirits, often diverting herself with playing on the harpsicord, practising English tunes, and endearing herself to those, who were honoured with the care of her person.

As it was night when the fleet arrived at Harwich, her most serene highness slept on board, and continued there till three in the afternoon the next day, during which time her route had been settled; and instructions received as to the manner of her proceeding to St. James's. At her landing, she was received by the mayor and aldermen of Harwich, in their usual formalities. About five o'clock she came to Colchester, and stopped at the house of Mr. Enew, where she was received and waited upon by Mrs. Enew and Mrs. Rebow; but captain Best attended her with coffee, and lieut. John Seabear with tea. Being thus refreshed, she proceeded to Witham, where she arrived at a quarter past seven, and stopped at lord Abercorn's*, and his lordship provided as elegant an entertainment for her as the time would admit. During supper, the door of the room was ordered to stand open, that every body might

* No man of his time was, perhaps, more remarkable for the independent character of his manners, than lord Abercorn; but it was an independence united to much vain pomposity and repulsive bluntness. Shortly after the arrival of her majesty his lordship went to St. James's, when the king thanked him for his attention to her majesty, saying he was afraid her visit had given him a good deal of trouble—"A good deal, indeed," replied his lordship.

have the pleasure of seeing her most serene highness; and on each side of her chair stood the lords Harcourt and Anson. The fruits were choice melons, figs, pears, &c., and many other sorts both in and out of season. She slept that night at his lordship's house; and a little after twelve o'clock on Tuesday, her majesty came to Rumford, where she stopped at Mr. Dutton's, wine-merchant. The king's coach and servants met her majesty there, and she was by them served with coffee at his house. She stayed there till almost one o'clock, and then entered the king's coach. The attendants of her majesty were in three other coaches; in the first were some ladies from Mecklenburg, and in the last was her majesty, who sat forward, and the duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton backward. Her majesty was dressed entirely in the English taste; she wore a fly-cap, with rich laced lappets, a stomacher, ornamented with diamonds, and a gold brocade suit of clothes, with a white ground. They proceeded at a tolerable pace, attended by an incredible number of spectators, both on horse and foot, to Stratford-le-bow and Mile-end turnpike, where they turned up Dog-row, and prosecuted their journey to Hackney turnpike, then by Shore-ditch church, and up Old-street to the City-road; across Islington, along the New-road into Hyde-park, down Constitution-hill, into St. James's park, and then to the garden gate of the palace, where her majesty was handed out of her coach by the duke of Devonshire, as lord chamberlain, to the gate, where she was received by his royal highness the duke of York. As her majesty alighted from her coach, his majesty descended the steps from the palace into the garden, and they met each other half way; and as her majesty was going to pay her obeisance, the king took hold of her hand, raised her up, saluted it, and then led her up stairs,

Afterwards, their majesties, her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales, and all his majesty's brothers and sisters, except the two youngest, dined together. After dinner, her majesty was pleased to shew herself, with his majesty, in the gallery, and other apartments fronting the park, to the people.

On the road she was extremely courteous to an incredible number of spectators on horse and foot gathered on this occasion, shewing herself, and bowing to all who seemed desirous of seeing her, and ordering the coach to go extremely slow through the towns and villages as she passed, that as many as would, might have a full view of her.

About eight o'clock in the evening the procession to the chapel began in the following order:

THE PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE.

Drums and trumpets
 The serjeant trumpeter
 The princess's servants
 A page
 A quarter waiter
 A gentleman usher between the two senior heralds
 Vice chamberlain
 Maids of honour
 Ladies of the bedchamber, not peeresses
 Peeresses
 Unmarried daughters of peers
 The king's vice-chamberlain—The king's lord chamberlain
 The BRIDE,
 In her nuptial habit, supported by their royal highnesses the duke of York and prince William; her train borne by ten unmarried daughters of dukes and earls, viz.
 Lady Sarah Lenox, lady Car, Russel, lady Ann Hamilton, lady Elizabeth Ker, lady Harry Bentinck, lady Car. Montagu, lady Elizabeth Keppel, lady Louisa Greville, lady Elizabeth Harcourt, lady S. Strangeways.

Her serene highness having been in this manner conducted to the chapel, the lord chamberlain and vice-chamberlain, with the two heralds, returned to wait upon his majesty.

THE KING'S PROCESSION.

Drums and trumpets as before
 The knight marshal
 Pursuivants and heralds at arms
 Knights of the Bath, not peers; wearing their collars
 Privy-councillors, not peers
 Comptroller of the household—Treasurer of the household
 Barons—bishops—viscounts—earls
 The lord-steward of the household, being an earl
 Marquisses
 Dukes
 Norroy and Clarencieux, kings of arms
 Two serjeants at arms
 Lord privy seal—lord president
 Two serjeants at arms
 Lord chancellor
 Lord archbishop of Canterbury
 Garter, principal king of arms, with his white rod or
 sceptre, between two gentlemen ushers
 The earl marshals
 His royal highness the duke of Cumberland
 His royal highness prince Frederick
 His royal highness prince Henry
 The sword of state, borne by the duke of Bedford, knight
 of the garter, in his collar, between the lord
 chamberlain and vice-chamberlain
 The KING wearing his collar
 Captain of the yeoman of guard, captain of the life guard
 Captain of the band of pensioners
 The gentlemen of the bed-chamber, in waiting
 The master of the robes
 Two grooms of the bed-chamber
 Gentlemen Pensioners

THE RETURN.

Drums and Trumpets
 Serjeant trumpeter
 The queen's servants
 A page
 A quarter waiter
 A gentleman usher between two heralds
 Pursuivants and heralds at arms
 Knights of the Bath, not peers
 Privy-councillors, not peers
 Unmarried daughters of Peers
 Peeresses
 Peers as before
 Norroy and Clarencieux, kings of arms

Lord privy seal
 Lord president
 Lord chancellor
 Lord archbishop of Canterbury
 Garter, between two gentlemen ushers
 The earl marshal
 His royal highness the duke of Cumberland
 His royal highness prince Frederick
 His royal highness prince Henry
 The sword of state, between the lord chamberlain and
 vice-chamberlain
 The KING
 The three captains of the guard
 The gentlemen of the bed-chamber in waiting
 Master of the rolls
 Two grooms of the bed-chamber
 The QUEEN,
 Conducted by the lord chamberlain and vice-chamberlain,
 supported by their royal highnesses the duke of York
 and prince William, her train borne as before
 The ladies of her majesty's bed-chamber in waiting
 Maids of honour
 Gentlemen pensioners.

The marriage ceremony was performed by the lord archbishop of Canterbury. The duke of Cumberland gave her hand to his majesty, and immediately on the joining their hands, the Park and Tower guns were fired.

Their majesties, after the ceremony, sat on one side of the altar on two state chairs under a canopy; her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales sat facing them on a chair of state on the other side, all the rest of the royal family on stools, and all the peers, peeresses, bishops, and foreign ministers, (including M. Bussy) on benches. There was afterwards a public drawing-room, but no persons presented. The houses in the cities of London and Westminster were illuminated, and the evening concluded with the utmost demonstrations of joy.

The ten bride-maids to the queen were all dressed alike, in white lustring, with silver trimmings, ornamented with pearls, diamonds, &c.,

a dress that attracted the eyes of every one. They appeared at court the three days following in the same dress.

The nobility of Ireland having previous to this ceremony revived the dispute about the precedence of the Irish peers walking at the wedding of their majesties, the king directed that the privy-council should inquire and report the precedents as they happened upon similar occasions; upon which report the Irish peers and peeresses were admitted to walk, and were marshalled in the procession, together with the peers and peeresses of Great Britain, according to their respective degrees, taking place of the British nobility of inferior rank.

The following anthem composed by Dr. Boyce, was performed on this occasion.

A GRAND FESTIVAL SYMPHONY.

Chorus.

The king shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord: exceedingly glad shall he be of thy salvation.

Duet, by Mr. SAVAGE and Mr. COOPER.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not denied him the request of his lips.

Chorus repeated.

Solo, by a BOY, accompanied by Mr. VINCENT, on the Hautboy.

Blessed is the man that hath a virtuous wife, for the number of his days shall be doubled.

Solo, by Mr. MENCKE, accompanied by Mr. WEIDEMAN on the German Flute.

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, her price is far above rubies.

Strength and honour are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

Solo, by Mr. BEARD.

Hearken, O daughter, consider, and incline thine ear, forget thine own people and thy father's house,

So shall the king have pleasure in thy beauty.

Instead of thy fathers thou shalt have children, whom thou mayst make princes in all lands.

Chorus.

Children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Lo thus shall they be blessed that fear the Lord.

On Wednesday the 9th inst. there was a very grand court at St. James's, when all the ladies of the court were presented to the queen, and had the honour to kiss her majesty's hand. At night there was the most grand and brilliant ball ever known, which ended at one o'clock; it was opened by the duke of York and princess Augusta. On the 10th there was a very grand levee at St. James's, when several ladies and gentlemen of the first distinction were presented to her majesty, and were most graciously received. The dresses on this occasion equalled, if not exceeded, those of the preceding days. On the 11th, the duke of Newcastle, Mr. Secretary Pitt, and earl Talbot gave grand entertainments at their several houses, to the nobility, foreign ministers, &c., on account of the royal marriage. There was also another grand levee at St. James's. On the 12th, their majesties went from St. James's to Richmond-palace, where they dined; the queen expressed the greatest pleasure in viewing that beautiful and charmingly-situated palace. On Sunday the 13th, their majesties were at the chapel royal, and heard a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Schutz, from these words;—"Provide things honest in the sight of all men," Rom. xii. v. 17. There was also a grand court at St. James's, when all the royal family were present, the foreign ambassadors, and a great number of the nobility and gentry, who all made a most brilliant appearance. Their majesties dined with the princess dowager of Wales.

On the 14th, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in new mazarine silk gowns, lined with fur, presented an humble address of congratulation to their majesties on this joyful occasion.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-council assembled.

Be pleased, most gracious sovereign, to accept the cordial and respectful congratulations of your majesty's ever dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common-council assembled, on the solemnization of your majesty's most auspicious nuptials.

Warmly interested from every motive of gratitude, as well as duty, in whatever can affect your royal mind, we enjoy the highest satisfaction in the completion of our wishes, by your majesty's happy union with a princess of the most exalted merit; a princess, who, by her descent from an illustrious lineage (respectable for their firm and constant zeal for the Protestant religion, and dear to us for their particular attachment to your majesty's royal house) and above all, by her own most eminent virtues and amiable endowments, was most worthy to engage your majesty's esteem and affection, and to share the honours of the British crown.

We adore the divine goodness, that as in all your majesty's other conduct, so more particularly in a choice of the highest importance to your majesty and your kingdoms, hath so visibly guided and inspired your royal breast. A choice which we thankfully acknowledge the strongest and most acceptable proof of your majesty's paternal attention to improve the happiness and security of your people, and to render the same stable and permanent to posterity.

May the same Providence long preserve your majesty and your royal consort to enjoy the fruits of this blessed marriage, in an uninterrupted course of conjugal felicity, and in a numerous offspring, resembling their illustrious parents, in every public as well as private virtue. And may the imperial crown of these realms, be worn with undiminished lustre by their descendants, till time shall be no more.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer :

I thank you most heartily for your dutiful and affectionate address. This fresh mark of your attachment to my person, and particularly the warm sentiments of joy and satisfaction which you express on the happy choice

I have made of a queen for my consort, are most pleasing to me. The city of London may always depend on my unceasing care for their welfare and prosperity.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, &c., to her Majesty.

Most gracious Queen,

We, his majesty's ever dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common-council assembled, humbly beg leave to express, in your royal presence, the exceeding great joy we feel at your majesty's safe arrival, so ardently wished for, and so impatiently expected; and, at the same time to congratulate your majesty's most happy nuptials with a monarch whose early wisdom, fortitude, and piety, add lustre to the diadem he wears, and render him the darling, as well as father of his people.

We do, with that honest warmth and sincerity which characterize the British nation, humbly assure your majesty, that as the many virtues and amiable endowments which your majesty possesses in so eminent a degree, cannot fail to bless our beloved sovereign with every domestic happiness; so will they ever endear your majesty to a people, not more distinguished for their love of liberty, and their country, than for their inviolable loyalty and gratitude to those princes from whom they derive protection and prosperity.

Long may your majesty live to share the felicity you are formed to inspire. And may your majesty prove the happy mother of a race of princes, to transmit the glories of this distinguished reign to the latest of our posterity.

Her Majesty's most gracious Answer :

I thank you for your kind congratulations, so full of duty to the king and affection to me. My warmest wishes will ever attend this great city.

The humble Address of the People called Quakers, presented October 30.

To George the Third, King of Great Britain, and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

May it please the King,

To accept our congratulations on the present happy occasion, and our fervent wishes that the royal nuptials may be blessed with felicity, as permanent and unmixed, as the joy they produce is universal.

From the evident marks we have seen of thy attention to the happiness of thy people, guided by an uniform steadiness and prudence, we are persuaded that in thy illustrious consort are united those amiable qualities, which will alike contribute to the domestic happiness of our sovereign, and endear her to his subjects.

Impressed with such sentiments, we already regard the queen with duty and affection, and we trust it will be our constant endeavour to cultivate the like sentiments in those among whom we converse; promoting, by example, that dutiful submission to authority which renders government easy to the prince, and grateful to the people.

May it please the most High, by whose wisdom kings reign, and princes decree justice, to confirm every virtuous purpose of thy heart, and to replenish it with stability and fortitude superior to every exigency: long may he vouchsafe to continue thee a blessing to these nations, and thy descendants, the guardians of liberty, civil and religious, to many generations.

Signed on the behalf of the said people in London,
the 26th of the tenth month, 1761.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer:

This address, so full of duty and affection, is very agreeable to me. You may depend on my protection.

And the same day the chancellor and university of Cambridge presented their addresses, and were most graciously received.

The same night, about a quarter after six, their majesties, with most of the royal family, went to Drury-lane playhouse, to see the Rehearsal. Their majesties went in chairs, and the rest of the royal family in coaches, attended by the horse-guards. His majesty was preceded by the duke of Devonshire, his lord chamberlain, and the honourable Mr. Finch, vice-chamberlain; and her majesty was preceded by the duke of Manchester, her majesty's lord chamberlain, and lord Cantalupo, her vice-chamberlain, the earl of Harcourt, her master of the horse, and by the duchess of Ancaster, and the countess of Effingham. It is almost inconceiv-

able the crowds of people that waited in the streets, quite from St. James's to the play-house, to see their majesties. It is said the crowd pressed so violently upon her majesty's chair, that she discovered some signs of fear; but upon entering the playhouse she presently recollected herself, and behaved with great gaiety the whole night after. Never was seen so brilliant a house, the ladies being mostly dressed in the clothes and jewels they wore at the royal marriage. The house was full almost as soon as the doors were open, owing to which out of the vast multitude present, not a fiftieth part got in, to the infinite disappointment and fatigue of many thousands. A prodigious deal of mischief was done at the doors of the house; several genteel women, who were imprudent enough to attempt to get in, had their cloaks, caps, aprons, and handkerchiefs all torn off; the great crowd and want of fresh air brought to the people's minds the condition of those unhappy people, who were suffocated in the black hole at Calcutta in the East Indies. A girl was killed, and a man so trampled on that he recovered with much difficulty.

On Wednesday the chancellor and university of Oxford presented their address; and both universities seemed to have vied with each other in making the most illustrious appearance on this happy event; there being a greater number of persons of high rank and eminence attending the presentation of their respective addresses, than has been known on any former occasion.

The playhouses likewise vied with each other on this occasion. On the 25th their majesties and the royal family went to Covent-Garden theatre to see the *Beggar's Opera*, with which her majesty appeared highly delighted. On this occasion two magnificent boxes were prepared; one for their majesties of a cherry-

coloured velvet, the festoon enriched with a silver embroidery, lace, and fringe; in the centre was represented two hymeneal torches, enclosing a heart, the device, *matrimonius ardor*; the columns were wreathed with lace, and the canopy adorned with tassels and a crown of excellent workmanship; the whole lined with white satin.—The other for the princess, was of blue velvet, decorated with gold, and the canopy distinguished with the ensigns of the principality of Wales. The whole is said to have cost 700*l*.

The following is a list of the establishment made by the king for the household of her majesty.

Chamberlain. Duke of Manchester.

Vice-Chamberlain. Lord Cantalupe.

Mistress of the Robes. Duchess of Ancaster.

Ladies of the Bedchamber. Duchess of Hamilton, countess of Effingham, countess of Northumberland, countess of Egremont, viscountess Weymouth, viscountess Bolingbroke.

Maids of honour. Miss Bishop, Miss Wrottesley, Miss Beauclerk, Miss Keck, Miss Meddows, Miss Tryon.

Bedchamber women. Mrs. Dashwood, Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Brudenel, Mrs. Boughton, and Mrs. Bloodworth.

Sempstress and laundress. Mrs. Chetwynd.

Gentlemen ushers of the privy chamber. Sir James Calder, Mr. Stanhope, Mr. Boyle.

Gentlemen ushers daily waiters. Mr. Allen, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Molyneux.

Gentlemen ushers quarterly waiters. Capt. Robinson, Mr. Hubert, Mr. Causlaid.

Physicians. Dr. Letherland, Dr. Akenside.

Physician to the household. Dr. Pringle.

Surgeon. Mr. Pennel Hawkins.

Surgeon to the household. Mr. Thomas Gataker.

Apothecary. Mr. Brande.

Apothecary to the household. Mr. John Devaynes.

Pages of the back stairs. Mr. John Nicolaii, Mr. Richard Chapman, Mr. White, Mr. Francis Weybrow.

Pages of the presence. Mr. Valantin, Mr. Sutherland.

Nec. woman to private apartment. Mrs. Moore.

Nec. woman to the public. Mrs. Coggeshead.

Treasurer. Andrew Stone, Esq.

Secretary. David Groehm, Esq.

Comptroller. Hon. Sewallis Shirley.

Attorney-general. Mr. Hussey.

Solicitor-general. Mr. de Gray.

Master of the horse. Earl Harcourt.

Equerries. Lieut. Col. Montgomery, Capt. Harcourt, Mr. John Schutz.

Pages of honour. Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Byne.

A clerk of the stables; a bottle-man; five coachmen; eight footmen, and three for the master of the horse; two grooms; four chair-men; five postilions; five helpers.

As might be naturally expected, the marriage of the king inflamed all the poets and poetasters of the kingdom with an irresistible desire of commemorating the auspicious event, and of transferring their noble and ignoble names to posterity by a profuse display of their rhyming powers. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge published each a collection of poems on the occasion, which were presented to his majesty. We shall only select one of each, although all of them possess a high degree of classical learning and poetical excellence.

TO THE QUEEN.

By Mr. WARTON — From the Oxford Collection.

WHEN first the kingdom to thy virtues due,
Rose from the billowy deep in distant view;
When Albion's isles, old Ocean's peerless pride,
Tower'd in imperial state above the tide;
What bright ideas of the new domain
Form'd the fair prospect of thy promised reign!

And well with conscious joy thy heart might beat
That Albion was ordain'd thy regal seat:
Lo! this the land where freedom's sacred rage,
Has glow'd untamed, thro' many a martial age.
Here patriot Alfred, stain'd with Danish blood,
Rear'd on one base the king's, the people's, good:

Here Henry's archers fram'd the stubborn bow
That laid Alanzon's haughty helmet low;
Here wak'd the flame that still superior braves
The proudest threats of Gaul's ambitious slaves:
Here chivalry, stern school of valour old,
Her noblest feats of knightly fame enroll'd;
Heroic champions heard the clarion's call,
And throng'd the board in Edward's banner'd hall;
While chiefs, like George, approv'd in worth alone,
Unlock'd chaste beauty's adamant zone.
Lo! the fam'd isle, which hails thy chosen sway,
What fertile fields her temperate suns display;
Where property secures the conscious swain,
And guards, while plenty gives, the golden grain:
Hence ripe with stores her villages abound,
Her airy downs with scatter'd sheep resound;
Fresh are her pastures with unceasing rills;
And future navies crown her darksome hills.
To bear her formidable glory far,
Behold her opulence of hoarded war!
See, from her ports a thousand banners stream,
On every coast her vengeful lightnings gleam!
Meantime, remote from ruin's armed hand,
In peaceful majesty her cities stand;
Whose splendid domes, and tradeful streets declare,
Their firmest fort, a king's parental care.

And O! blest queen, if e'er the magic pow'rs
Of warbled truth have won thy musing hours;
Here poesy, from awful days of yore,
Has pour'd her genuine gifts of raptur'd lore.
Mid oaken bow'rs, with holy verdure wreath'd,
In Druid songs her solemn spirit breath'd.
While cunning bards, at ancient banquets, sung
Of paynim foes defy'd, and trophies hung,
Here Spenser tun'd his mystic minstrelsy,
And drest in fairy robes a queen like thee.
Here boldly mark'd with ev'ry living hue
Nature's unbounded portrait Shakspeare drew:
But chief, the dreadful group of human woes
The daring artist's tragic pencil chose;
Explor'd the pangs that rend the royal breast,
Those wounds that lurk beneath the tissu'd vest!
Lo! this the land, whence Milton's muse of fire
High soar'd to steal from heav'n a seraph's lyre;
And told the golden ties of wedded love
In sacred Eden's amaranthine grove.

Thine too, majestic bride, the favour'd clime,
Where science sits enshrin'd in roofs sublime——

O mark how green her wood of ancient bays
O'er Isis' marge in many a chaplet strays!
Thither, if haply some distinguish'd flower
Of these mix'd blooms from that ambrosial bower,
Might catch thy glance, and, rich in nature's hue,
Entwine thy diadem with honour due:
If seemly gifts the train of Phœbus pay,
To deck imperial Hymen's festive day;
Thither thyself shall haste, and mildly deign
To tread with nymph-like step the conscious plain:
Pleas'd in the muse's nook, with decent pride,
To throw the sceptred pall of state aside,
Nor from the shade shall George be long away,
Which claims Charlotta's love, and courts her stay.—

These are Britannia's praises. Deign to trace,
With rapt reflection freedom's favourite race!
But tho' the generous isle, in arts and arms,
Thus stands supreme, in nature's choicest charms;
Tho' George and conquest guard her sea-girt throne,
One happier blessing still she calls her own;
And, proud a fresh increase of fame to view,
Crowns all her glory by possessing you.

By the Hon. JOHN GRAY.—From the Cambridge Collection.

WHILE o'er Germania's ravaged plains,
Stern desolation ruthless reigns;
While, as she darts her redd'ning eye,
Death gives his keenest shafts to fly
The gifts of plenty and repose
Safe on her cliffs Britannia knows:
Her valleys spread their verdant vest;
Her fields in richest robes are drest;
No hostile hoof her laurel'd walks invades
Or frights their sisters from their peaceful shades.

II.

I see the God, whom Venus bore
To Bacchus on Ilissus' shore:
In yellow folds his mantle plays;
His torch sends forth a brighter blaze,
He waves his hand: I feel, he cries,
Such transport in my bosom rise,
As when I wreath'd the myrtle twine
To bind the brows of Caroline;
Or when in Clifden's bow'rs to Fred'ric's arms
I gave the treasure of Augusta's charms.

III.

Ye nymphs, who arts of conquest try,
 Who bend the neck, who roll the eye,
 See Charlotte win with grace and ease,
 And please without a wish to please!
 Ye purple tyrants, slaves to love,
 From fair to fair who sated rove,
 What is the boast of beauty, say!
 That spark time's wing soon wafts away.
 Go! from a British monarch learn to place
 Your bliss on virtue's adamantine base.

IV.

Hail happy union! the presage
 Of glories down from age to age.
 Yes; as thro' time I dart my sight,
 Successive Georges spring to light;
 Patriots, by lessons and by laws
 To aid expiring freedom's cause;
 Warriors, by many a daring blow
 To check each vain presumptuous foe;
 Till vaunting Gaul a mighty power shall own,
 And Spain's proud genius bow to Brunswick's throne.

After the king's nuptials, another proclamation was published, to give notice, that it was his majesty's intention, her majesty should be crowned at the same time and place. Upon this occasion Westminster-hall was laid open from end to end, and every thing it lately contained entirely removed, except the floor and steps of the King's-Bench court. A new boarded floor was likewise laid from the north gate up the middle of the hall to those steps, covered with matting. On each side was built a large gallery, the bottom about five feet from the ground, and containing eight benches, covered also with matting for the spectators. Over this was erected a second gallery, not so wide, but of the same length, *viz.*, that of the open part of the hall, when the King's-Bench court subsisted; but what must at first sight appear very frightful, a third gallery was fixed as it were in the roof, and supported by those beams, which are decorated at the ends with

cherubims; it did not run quite the same length as the others, nor was it so wide as may be imagined, from its being placed in so narrow a part of the building. Between the first gallery and the floor were contrived on each side, large closets or pantries, with double doors, answering the purpose of side-boards, cellars, &c., as well as to contain the plates, dishes, and other things wanted by the company and waiters. In a space, left between these pantries and the platform up the middle of the hall, the tables were placed for that part of the company to dine at, who had not the honour to be at the king's table. His majesty, with his queen, nobility, great officers of state, &c., dined on the elevated part of the hall, where is kept the court of King's-Bench. The whole was lighted by fifty-two large chandeliers, each ornamented at the top with a gilt imperial crown. The lower gallery was accommodated with a curious sluice, of an admirable contrivance, for the reception of urinary discharges. Over the north gate, which was opposite the king's table, a large balcony was put up, for the trumpets, the kettle-drums, and other music, and in the centre over them was fixed an organ. It was under this music that the champion, attended by the lord high constable, and the earl marshal, all on horseback, made their entry into the hall. The procession entered at the west door of the Abbey; marched on a platform up the great middle aisle to the choir, the front of which was covered with scarlet; the organ was not taken down, but no alteration made to the arch under it.

A platform was likewise erected from the upper end of Westminster-hall, where the procession commenced, and continued through New Palace-yard, Parliament-street, and Bridge-street, into King-street, and so round to the west door of the Abbey to the choir.

where his majesty was crowned; and, in view of this platform, the houses on each side were lined with scaffolding, the seats on which were let at exorbitant prices. The front seats in the galleries of the Abbey were let at ten guineas each, and those in commodious houses along the procession, at no less prices. The prices in the ordinary houses were from five guineas to one guinea, so that one little house in Coronation-row, after the scaffolding was paid for, cleared 700*l.*, and some large houses upwards of 1,000*l.* In the coronation theatres, as they were called, being a sort of large booths, capable of containing from 12 to 1,500 seats, the prices were beyond all precedent. However some, who fitted up houses or scaffolds on this occasion, lost considerably by outstanding their market. The ground-rent to build the scaffolding on was proportionably extravagant. That in the broad sanctuary, let at 3*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per foot. That within the rails, enclosing the Abbey, let at 5*l.* 5*s.* per foot*.

No wonder need be excited at the great and universal eagerness to see this grand spectacle, when we consider how unlikely it was that many of those who were capable of it should ever see the like again. As an instance of this

eagerness, it was reported that a gentleman was prevailed on to take a room for his lady at the rate of one hundred and forty guineas; but the appointment of the solemnity of the coronation falling unhappily exactly at the time when she expected to be delivered, she had farther prevailed on her husband, to let a skilful man-midwife, nurse, &c., attend her, and to hire an additional withdrawing-room, lest the great hurry of the day should bring on her labour, when it would be impossible for her to be carried away without endangering her life.

The attention of the committee of council appointed to consider of the coronation to prevent accidents, and of the board of works, to whose inspection all the erections on this occasion were made subject, cannot be too much applauded. The committee's first care was to prevent accidents by fire; and, as it was apprehended that the joy of the people upon the arrival of their queen, would naturally be expressed by bonfires and illuminations, the lord great chamberlain, the earl marshal, the dean and chapter of Westminster, and the surveyor-general of his majesty's works, were ordered to give the necessary directions as to them respectively appertained, that no bonfires should

* On consulting Stow, Speed, and other antiquaries, with regard to the prices formerly given, it appears that the price of a good place at the coronation of the Conqueror was a blank; and probably the same at that of his son William Rufus. At Henry I. it was a crocard; and at Stephen's and Henry the II. a pollard. At Richard's, and king John's, who was crowned frequently, it was a suskin; and rose at Henry III. to a dodkin. In the reign of Edward the coins begin to be more intelligible, and we find that, for seeing his coronation, a Q. was given, or the half of a ferling, or farthing; which is the fourth part of a sterling, or penny. At Edward II. it was a farthing, and at his son's, Edward III., a halfpenny, which was very well given. In Richard II.'s thoughtless reign it was a penny, and continued the same at that of Henry IV. At Henry V. it was two pennys, or the half of a grossus, or groat; and the same at that of Henry VI., though, during this time, coronations were so frequent, that the price was brought back to the penny or halfpenny, and sometimes they were seen for nothing. At Edward IV. it was again the half-groat; nor do we find it raised at those of Richard III. or Henry VII. At that of Henry VIII. it was the whole groat, or grossus; nor was it altered at those of Edward VI. and queen Mary; but at queen Elizabeth's it was a teston or tester. At those of James I. and Charles I. a shilling was given; which was advanced to half-a-crown at those of Charles II. and James II. At king William's and queen Anne's it was a crown; and at George I. was seen by many for the same price. At George II. some gave half-a-guinea.

be made, nor any fireworks played off in any part of Westminster, from Whitehall to Milbank, and from thence to Buckingham-gate, round the south-west part of the artillery ground, till seven days after the coronation; and, by another order, all fires were forbidden to be lighted on the day of the coronation, in, under, or near any part of the scaffolding, on any pretence whatever; and, in case there should be a necessity for people to go under the scaffolding with lights, that they should be obliged to make use of lanterns. By these wise precautions, all terrors from fire, which might have affected many persons, were removed. The board of works carefully surveyed all the scaffoldings erected on the occasion, not only for the procession itself, but for the spectators, and ordered such of the latter to be pulled down, as were judged insufficient in point of strength, or found to jut out so far as to obstruct the prospect or passage. And to prevent accidents by the stoppages of coaches, &c., on the day of the coronation, notice was given, that a way was made for them to pass through Parliament-street, cross the New and Old Palace-yards; and they were ordered, as soon as discharged, to proceed on directly to Millbank, and from thence to Hyde Park Corner without making any stop; and, it was further commanded, that none but the coaches of peers, peeresses, and others, who attended the solemnity, should pass that way after seven o'clock that morning, nor any whatever after nine; and, in the evening the coaches were to return the same way; but no coaches were permitted to pass back by any of those ways till after their majesties returned to St. James's.

Information having also been given to the lords of his majesty's honourable privy-council, that the hackney-coachmen and chairmen had entered into a combination not to work their

coaches and chairs on that day, without exorbitant rates, their lordships caused an order to be published, requiring all hackney-coachmen, and chairmen, to be out with coaches and chairs by four in the morning, and faithfully to perform their duty without making any exorbitant demands, upon pain of being proceeded against with the utmost severity. But, as working their way through the great crowds with which this solemnity was like to be attended, could not fail subjecting both coachmen and chairmen to infinite troubles, and the latter to great fatigue and danger, they threatened not to ply at all, by which means many persons would lose the pleasure of seeing the procession, and not a few of those who made part of it, would find it extremely difficult to reach the places they were to assemble at, it was therefore thought prudent to take a middle course on the occasion; and, accordingly one of the most eminent sedan-makers assured the chairmen in the most affable advertisement, that the nobility and gentry would consider them properly, if they would but leave it entirely to themselves. This notice had the desired effect. The chairmen gave due attendance, and were generously paid. A guinea for a set-down from any of the squares at the court end of the town to Westminster Abbey and Hall and places adjacent was grudged by few; nor does it appear that any of those who might grudge such high prices, complained to the board for regulating hackney-coachmen and chairmen; the said board, in consequence of an order from the coronation committee, having given notice that they would have three or four extraordinary meetings to hear and determine such complaints. Indeed it might seem unreasonable that any one set of men should be debarred setting a just value on their labours, when others took the most extravagant prices for

what cost them little or nothing; for on the day of the coronation, many spectators were glad to give sixpence for a glass of water, a shilling for a roll, and so in proportion for other refreshments. The day before the coronation, the call for horses to bring people to town, and of coaches to set them down at the places they had taken to see the coronation, was so great, that many were obliged to walk several miles, and some, after coming a great way on the occasion, to return home without having been able to satisfy their curiosity.

The military officers were also appointed their proper stations. Sir John Mordaunt's light horse patrolled the streets all the day and night, to prevent disorders; Sir Robert Rich's dragoons were placed at Charing-Cross, St. James's-square, and in the Park, at the end of George-street, for the same purpose. The soldiers on duty were ranged in such a manner, that no obstruction whatever attended the ceremony; the nearest hospitals were cleared too as much as possible for the reception and speedy relief of the unfortunate, in case that any accident had happened.

A proclamation was also published at the Royal Exchange, commanding all magistrates, peace-officers, &c., to preserve the peace on the coronation-day; in consequence of which the justices of the peace for Westminster, ordered the constables of their districts to patrol the streets where the scaffolding was built, on the nights of the 21st and 22d, and for seven nights after, and to apprehend all persons throwing squibs, crackers, &c.

Such were the wise regulations that those worthy personages to whom the conduct of this most magnificent ceremony was intrusted, caused to be published from time to time; and the measures they pursued were attended with the desired effect; for, notwithstanding the

greatness of the crowd, the absence of so many persons from home, and the great and universal rejoicings made to solemnize this august ceremony, no accident of any kind happened, which it was possible for human wisdom to prevent.

At length Tuesday the 22d of September, the day appointed for this august solemnity being arrived, their majesties and the princess dowager repaired in the morning through the Park from St. James's in chairs, and their attendants in coaches, to Westminster-hall, where they arrived by nine, much sooner than a great many who were to assist in the procession.

His majesty retired into the court of wards, and her majesty into the Black Rod's room; where they continued until the officers of arms ranged the procession into order, and brought the persons down from the Court of Requests, Painted Chamber, and House of Lords, into Westminster-hall.

Their majesties being there seated at the upper end of it, under their states (her majesty's chair being upon the left side of his majesty,) and being attended by the duke of Ancaster, lord great chamberlain of England, the duke of Bedford, lord high constable, and the earl of Effingham, earl marshal, and by the great officers; the four swords and spurs were presented, and laid upon the table before his majesty.

Then the dean and prebendaries of Westminster, in a solemn procession brought from the Abbey the Holy Bible, with the following regalia belonging to his majesty; St. Edward's crown, upon a cushion of velvet laced with gold, the orb with a cross, the sceptre with a dove, the sceptre with the cross, and St. Edward's staff; as likewise the regalia of her majesty, her crown on the like cushion, her sceptre with the cross, and the ivory rod with the dove;

which were severally laid before their majesties. All which were afterwards by his majesty's command, delivered to the lords who are hereafter mentioned to have borne them.

About eleven of the clock the procession was

begun on foot from the hall to the Abbey of Westminster, upon a way raised for that purpose floored with boards, covered with blue cloth, and railed on each side, in the following manner :

The king's herb woman, followed by her six maids, strewing the way with sweet herbs.

The dean's beadle of Westminster, with his staff.

The high constable of Westminster, with his staff, in a scarlet cloak.

A fife. Four drums. The drum-major.

Eight trumpets. A kettle-drum. Eight trumpets. The serjeant-trumpeter.

The six clerks in chancery, in gowns of black flowered satin with black silk loops and tufts upon the sleeves.

The closet keeper of the chapel royal.

The king's chaplains, four a-breast.

The two sheriffs of London.

Thirteen aldermen of London below the chair, in their scarlet gowns.

The recorder of London, single.

The aldermen above the chair, wearing their gold chains.

Eleven masters in chancery, in rich gowns.

The king's three younger serjeants at law, in scarlet gowns, their caps in their hands.

The king's attorney-general, Charles Pratt, Esq.

The king's ancient serjeant, David Poole, Esq.

Gentlemen of the privy chamber.

Barons of the exchequer and justices of both benches, in their judges robes of scarlet, with their caps in their hands, the juniors first, two and two.

Chief baron of the exchequer, in his scarlet robe, with the collar of SS of gold.

Children of the choir of Westminster, in surplices.

Serjeant of the vestry.

Serjeant porter, in scarlet gowns.

Children of the chapel royal, in surplices, with scarlet mantles over them.

Choir of Westminster, in surplices, with their music books.

The organ blower.

The groom of the vestry.

Gentlemen of the chapel royal, in scarlet mantles.

The sub-dean of the chapel royal, in a scarlet gown, turned up with black velvet.

Prebendaries of Westminster, in surplices and copes, with their caps in their hands.

The master of the jewel-house, with one of his officers going by him, both in scarlet.

Bath king of arms, in his habit of the order, and carrying his coronet in his hand.

Knights of the bath, under the degree of peers, in the full habits and collars of their order, two and two, carrying their caps and feathers in their hands.

Pursuivant at arms, Blanch Lyon.

Privy-councillors, not peers, amongst them the master of the rolls.

His majesty's vice-chamberlain, William Finch, Esq.

Rouge Croix.

[Pursuivant at arms.]

Rouge Dragon.

Baronesses, in their robes of estate; their coronets in their hands.

Barons, in their robes of estate; their coronets in their hands.

Bluemantle.

[Heralds.]

Porthullis.

Bishops, in their rockets; their square caps in their hands.

Arundel herald, with his coat and collar of SS.

[Heralds.]

Blanche Coursier, with his collar of SS gold chain & badge.

Viscountesses, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Viscounts, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Brunswick herald, in his coat, collar, gold chain and badge. [Heralds.] Lancaster, with his coat and collar.

Countesses, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Earls, in their robes of estate ; except such as carried any of the regalia ; their coronets in their hands.

The lord steward of the household : being an earl.

Windsor, in his coat and collar.

[Heralds.]

York, in his coat and collar.

Marchionesses, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Marquisses, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Richmond, in his coat and collar.

[Heralds.]

Chester, in his coat and collar.

Duchesses, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

Dukes, in their robes of estate ; their coronets in their hands.

The lord chamberlain of the household, duke of Devonshire.

Provincial kings of arms :

Ulster, with his coat, collar and badge ; his coronet in his hand.

Clarencieux, with his coat, collar, and badge, his coronet in his hand.

Norroy, with his coat, collar and badge, his coronet in his hand.

Lord privy-seal, in his robes of estate ; his coronet in his hand, earl Temple.

Lord president, in his robes of estate ; his coronet in his hand, earl of Granville.

Lord Chancellor, in his robes of estate, and coronet in his hand, bearing the purse, lord Henley.

Lord archbishop of Canterbury, in his rochet, with his cap in his hand, Dr. Thomas Secker.

Two gentlemen of the privy chamber, in crimson velvet mantles, lined with white sarcenet, and faced with minivor powdered with ermin, their hats in their hands, representing the dukes of

Aquitaine, Sir William Breton.

Normandy, Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart.

The queen's vice-chamberlain, lord viscount Cantalupe.

Two gentlemen ushers.

The ivory rod with the dove, borne by the earl of Northampton, in his robes of estate.

The queen's lord chamberlain, duke of Manchester, in his robes, with his coronet and staff in his hand.

The sceptre with the cross, borne by the duke of Rutland in his robes of estate.

Two serjeants at arms.

The queen's crown, borne by the duke of Bolton in his robes of estate.

Two serjeants at arms.

The QUEEN,

Bishop of
Norwich
nominated
to London.

In her royal robes (on her head a circlet of gold adorned with jewels) going under a canopy of cloth of gold, borne by barons of the cinque ports ; her train supported by her royal highness princess Augusta, in her robes of estate, assisted by six earl's daughters.

Bishop of
Lincoln.

Lady Mary Gray,
Lady Eliz. Montague,

Lady Jane Steuart,
Lady Selina Hastings,

Lady Heneage Finch,
Lady Mary Douglas,

Princess's coronet, borne by the marquis of Carnarvon.

Duchess of Ancaster, mistress of the robes.

Two women of her majesty's bedchamber.

The King's Regalia.

St. Edward's staff, borne by the duke of Kingston, in his robes.

The golden spurs, borne by the earl of Sussex, in his robes.

The sceptre with the cross, borne by the duke of Marlbro', in his robes.

The third sword, borne by the earl of Sunderland, in his robes.

Curtana, borne by the earl of Lincoln, in his robes.

The second sword, borne by the earl of Suffolk, in his robes.

Usher of the green rod.

Usher of the white rod.

20 gent. pensioners.

20 gent. pensioners.

Lord mayor of London in his gown, collar, and jewel, bearing the city mace, sir M. Blackiston.	Lyon king of arms of Scotland, carrying his crown in his hand, J. Campbell Hooke, Esq.	Garter principal king of arms, his crown in his hand, S. M. Leake, Esq.	Gentleman usher of the black-rod, with his rod, sir Septimus Robinson.
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The lord great chamberlain of England, in his robes of estate, and coronet and white staff in his hand, duke of Ancaster.

His royal highness the duke of Cumberland, in his robes of estate, and coronet in his hand; his train borne by the honourable colonel John Fitzwilliam.

His royal highness the duke of York, in his robes of estate, and coronet in his hand; his train borne by colonel Brudenell.

Earl marshal in his robes, with his coronet and earl marshal's staff, earl of Effingham.	The sword of state*, borne by the earl of Huntingdon, in his robes.	Lord high constable of England, in his robes, with his coronet and staff, duke of Bedford	High constable of Scotland in his robes, with his coronet and staff, earl of Errol.
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A gentleman carrying the staff of the lord high steward.	Serj. at arms.	The sceptre with the dove, borne by the duke of Richmond, in his robes.	St. Edward's crown, borne by the lord high steward in his robes, earl Talbot.	The orb, borne by the duke of Somerset in his robes.	Serj. at arms.	A gentleman carrying the coronet of the lord high steward.
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The paten, by the bishop of Rochester.	The bible carried by the bishop of Carlisle.	The chalices, by the bishop of Chester.
Bishop of Hereford.		Bishop of Durham.

The KING,

In his royal robes, (on his head a cap of estate adorned with jewels) going under a canopy of cloth of gold, borne by sixteen barons of the cinque ports; his train supported by six lords, eldest sons of peers.

Viscount Mandeville, Lord Howard, Lord Beauchamp, Marquis of Hartington, Lord Grey, Lord Newham.

And at the end of it, the master of the robes, Hon. James Brudenell.

Standard bearer of the band of gentlemen pensioners.	Captain of the yeomen of the guard, in his robes.	Captain of the horse in waiting, in his robes.	Captain of the band of gentlemen pensioners in his robes.	Lieut. of the band of gentlemen pensioners.
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A gentleman of the king's bedchamber.

Two grooms of the bedchamber.

Ensign of the yeomen of the guard.

Lieutenant of the yeomen of the guard.

Exempts.

The yeomen of the guard.

Exempts.

The clerk of the checque to the yeomen of the guard.

All the peers in the procession, were in their robes of estate; and being Knights of the Garter, Thistle, or Bath, wore the collars of their respective orders.

The manner of disposing, seating, and placing the several persons who came in the grand Procession, after their entrance into the church, was as follows:—

The drums staying at the west-door of the church, the trumpets and kettle-drums first entered, and coming to the west door of the choir, turned up the stairs on the left hand, into their gallery, over the said door.

After them the six clerks entered the choir; and being conducted by two officers of arms, ascended the steps of the theatre; and dividing themselves to the right and left, went to their seats in the galleries on the side of the choir, level with the theatre, to the west-end of the benches, and stood before their seats (as all others did,) until their majesties were seated.

Next, the king's chaplains having dig-

* The king's sword of state having, by some mistake, been left behind at St. James's, the lord mayor's sword was carried before the king by the earl of Huntingdon, in its stead: but when the procession came into the abbey, the sword of state was found placed upon the altar.

nities; the aldermen of London; the masters in chancery; the king's serjeants at law; the king's solicitor and attorney-general; the king's ancient serjeant; the esquires of the body, the gentlemen of the privy chamber; the barons of the exchequer, and justices of both benches, together with the lord chief baron and the two chief justices, having ascended the theatre, were directed in like manner to divide to the right and left, and take their places also on each side the choir, the foremost going still towards the west part of the benches.

Then the choir of Westminster, with the prebendaries and dean, being entered the church, fell off from the procession, a little on the left hand of the middle aisle, and stayed till their majesties entered the church, whilst the serjeant-porter and serjeant of the vestry passed over the theatre to their station on the north side of the altar: the children and gentlemen of his majesty's chapel repaired in the mean time to the galleries appointed for them on each side of the sacrarium, or area, before the altar, viz., the vocal music to the gallery between the two uppermost pillars on the south side of the altar, and the instrumental music to the gallery on the north side of the said area, in the arch next to the pulpit.

The master of the jewel-house and the two privy-councillors, not peers, passed over the theatre to the north side of the said area, the master of the jewel-house toward the north side of the altar, and the other two to that end of the seats provided for the bishops, next to the pulpit.

Then the baronesses, ascending the steps of the theatre, turned to the left hand, and were conducted by an officer of arms to the furthest of those six seats prepared for the peeresses, on the north side of the theatre.

In like manner the barons were conducted

to the furthest of the six seats on the south side of the theatre; and the bishops to their seats on the north side of the area or sacrarium.

Then the viscountesses were conducted (by one of the officers of arms who preceded them) to their seats next to the baronesses; and the viscounts (by the other officer of arms,) to the opposite side next to the barons.

And so the countesses, earls, marchionesses, duchesses, and dukes, were conducted to their seats in like manner, viz.: the peeresses to the seats on the north side of the theatre, and the peers to those on the south side.

By this time the king and queen, having entered the church, were received by the dean and prebendaries, who, with the choir of Westminster, proceeded a little before their majesties, singing the first anthem, taken out of the 122d Psalm, "I was glad," &c.

The anthem being ended, the children and choir of Westminster turned to the left hand, to the back side of the choir, and went up into their gallery.

Then the prebendaries entering the choir, ascended the theatre, and passed over it to their station on the south side of the altar, beyond the king's chair.

After which the dean of Westminster, the great officers, and two archbishops, with the dukes of Aquitaine and Normandy, ascended the theatre, and stood near the great south-east pillar thereof.

Then the queen, preceded by her vice-chamberlain, two gentleman-ushers, and her lord chamberlain, and by the lords who bore her majesty's regalia, and being attended as before, ascended the theatre, leaving the gentlemen pensioners (who guarded her majesty) below in the choir, and the serjeant at arms at the rail on the west side of the theatre, and passed on the north side of her throne, to the

chair of state and faldstool provided for her on the east side of the theatre, below her throne, and stood by the said chair till his majesty came.

When the queen entered the choir, the king's scholars of Westminster school; in number forty, all in surplices, being placed in a gallery adjoining to the great organ-loft, entertained her majesty with this short prayer or salutation, *Vivat Regina* [naming her majesty's name]; which they continued to sing until his majesty entered the choir, whom they entertained in like manner with this prayer or salutation, *Vivat* [naming his majesty's name] *Rex*; which they continued to sing until his majesty ascended the theatre.

Then the king, preceded as before, having also left the barons of the Cinque Ports, who bore his majesty's canopy, at the entrance into the choir, and the gentlemen pensioners in the choir, ascended the theatre, leaving the rest of the serjeants at arms at the rail aforesaid; and passing by the south side of his throne, to his chair of state set for him on the east side of the theatre, near the foot of his throne, made an humble adoration, and knelt down at his faldstool, just before his chair, and used some private devotions; the queen doing the like: and then arising, seated himself in his chair of state; and being seated, the queen also sat down in her chair of state: the lord chancellor, the lord great chamberlain, the lord high constable, and earl marshal, with the two bishops who supported his majesty, the dean of Westminster, and the lords who carried the regalia and swords, with Garter and the gentleman-usher, all standing about his majesty, viz., the bishops on either side, the lords who bore the swords on the right hand, and the lord great chamberlain on the left hand.

The queen's officers, and those who bore her

majesty's regalia, with the two supporting bishops, and the lady who bore her majesty's train, with the two ladies assistants, all standing likewise about her majesty, viz., the bishops on either side, her lord chamberlain on the right hand, and her vice-chamberlain on the left; and the ladies that attended her, behind.

Thus their majesties being seated, and all the nobility and others duly placed, the two provincial kings of arms, with the heralds and pursuivants of arms, repaired to their stations at the four great corner pillars of the theatre.

THE RECOGNITION.

Then the archbishop of Canterbury, standing near the king on the east side of the theatre, his majesty, attended as before, rose out of his chair, and stood before it, whilst the archbishop, having his face to the east, said as follows:

Sirs,—I here present unto you king George, the rightful inheritor of the crown of this realm: Wherefore all ye that are come this day to do your homage, service, and bounden duty, are ye willing to do the same?

From thence the said archbishop, accompanied with the lord keeper, the lord great chamberlain, the lord high constable, and the earl marshal (Garter, king of arms going before them) proceeded to the south side of the theatre; and repeated the same words; and from thence to the west, and lastly to the north side of the theatre, in like manner: the king standing all this while by his chair of state, toward the east side of the theatre, and turning his face to the several sides of the theatre, at such time as the archbishop at every of them spoke to the people.

At every of which the people signified their willingness and joy by loud acclamations, saying,

"GOD SAVE KING GEORGE!"

And at the last of them, the trumpets sounded and drums beat.

This being done, the second anthem was then sung, Psalm xxi. verses 1, 2, 5, 6. "The king shall rejoice," &c.

THE FIRST OBLATION.

The archbishop in the mean time going to the altar, revested himself with a rich cope, and placed himself at the north side of the altar; as did also the bishops who bore any part in the office.

The grooms of the removing wardrobe, in the interim, spread a large carpet from the altar down below the half paces thereof, as far as king's Edward's chair: and the gentleman-usher of the black rod, and the yeoman of his majesty's said wardrobe, assisted by the two grooms aforesaid, spread a rich carpet of cloth of gold over it, and laid cushions of the same for their majesties to kneel on, at the steps of the altar.

Then the king rose from his chair, (on the east side of the theatre below his throne), leaving the queen in hers; being supported by the two bishops, and attended (as always) by the dean of Westminster: the great officers and the noblemen who carried the four swords and regalia going before him, put off his cap of estate, and went to the steps of the altar, and there kneeled down upon the cushions.

Here the pall of cloth of gold was delivered to the lord great chamberlain, by the master of the great wardrobe, who, kneeling, presented it to his majesty, and the king offered it.

Then the treasurer of his majesty's household delivered to the lord great chamberlain an ingot, or wedge of gold, of a pound weight, (viz., twelve ounces Troy) which the king also offered.

The archbishop, assisted by the dean of

Westminster, received them (standing) from his majesty, and laid them reverently on the altar: which done, the king arising, made an obeisance towards the altar, and retired to his chair on the south side of the area or saccrarium.

Then the queen, supported as before, by the bishops, was brought from her seat, (on the east side of the theatre below her throne), her regalia being borne before her; and being come to the steps of the altar, kneeled down, and offered a like pall, with the same ceremony as the king did before, and then retired to her chair, set for her likewise on the south side of the area, or on the king's left hand.

After which, their majesties kneeling at their faldstools placed before their chairs, the archbishop said the following prayer:

O God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, with them also who are of an humble spirit; look down graciously upon these thy servants, George our king, and Charlotte our queen, here prostrate before thee at thy footstool, and mercifully receive these oblations, &c.

Which prayer being ended, the lords who bore his majesty's regalia, drew near to the steps of the altar, and every one, in order, presented what he carried, viz., the crown, the orb, the sceptre with the dove, the spurs, the sceptre with the cross, and St. Edward's staff, unto the archbishop; who being assisted, as before, by the dean of Westminster, laid them decently upon the altar, and the lords who bore them retired to their respective seats.

In like manner the lords who carried her majesty's regalia, delivered them severally in manner as before, viz.: first, the crown, then the sceptre with the cross; and lastly, the ivory rod with the dove, and retired to their respective seats.

Which done, the persons representing the dukes of Aquitain and Normandy, with the

great officers; viz., the lord chancellor, the lord treasurer, the lord president of the council, and the lord privy-seal, together with the lord high constable and the earl marshal, repaired to their seats on the south side of the area, behind their majesties' chairs, where the lord high steward had immediately before seated himself.

THE LITANY.

Their majesties arising from their chairs, and kneeling again at their faldstools, which are now placed facing the east, the queen's on the left hand of the king's, the archbishop ordered the yeomen of his majesty's vestry, to give notice to the bishops of Chester and Chichester to read the Litany; which they accordingly sung,

O God the Father of Heaven, &c.

The choirs sung the responses, the dean of Westminster kneeling on the left hand of the king, a little behind his majesty.

The archbishop began the communion service, and, after the commandments, read the prayer for the king as the collect for that day's solemnity:

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, &c.

The bishop of Rochester read the Epistle, 1st of Peter, verses 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17; and the bishop of Lichfield read the Gospel, St. Matthew, chap. xxii. verses 15 to 22 inclusive. After which, viz., at the end of the collect,

We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities.

The archbishop being all this while at the north side of the altar, said these two prayers.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things, King of kings, and Lord of lords, give ear, we beseech thee, unto our humble prayers; and multiply thy blessings upon this thy servant George, whom in thy name, with lowly devotion, we consecrate our king, &c.

O God, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love, grant unto this thy servant,

George our king, the spirit of wisdom and government, &c.

The archbishop began the Nicene Creed, which the choir sung.

After the Litany, the yeomen of the vestry carried back the desk and cushions into St. Edward's chapel, where they waited to perform any occasional commands of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury.

THE SERMON.

Then the bishop of Salisbury (nominated to the see of York,) ascended to the pulpit, and the king and queen, arising, seated themselves again in their chairs, on the south side of the area, where they heard the sermon, the king now putting on again his velvet cap of estate.

The sermon was preached from 1st of Kings, chap. x. verse 9.

Blessed be the Lord thy God which delighteth in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel for ever; therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

The sermon was printed.

During sermon, the two bishops who supported the king, stood on each side of him: the lords, who carried the swords, bore them erect, near the king, on his right side; and the lord great chamberlain stood on the king's left hand.

On each side of the queen stood the two bishops who supported her, and the two great ladies near her chair; her lord-chamberlain on her right hand, and her vice-chamberlain on her left.

The archbishop of Canterbury sat in a chair, on the north side of the altar, and the bishops on benches on the north side of the area. And near the archbishop stood garter king of arms, with several of the king's servants, who attended to do service. As also the serjeant and two yeomen of the vestry before-mentioned, in

scarlet mantles: on the same side near the pulpit, stood the lord mayor of London and the master of the jewel-house. And, at the angles or corners of the thrones, stood the four gentlemen ushers daily waiters, richly habited.

On the south side, east of the king's chair, and nearer to the altar, stood the dean and prebendaries of Westminster; and near them the commissioners of the great wardrobe, as also the yeomen and grooms of his majesty's removing wardrobe in their scarlet gowns, to place the chairs, faldstools, &c., as occasion required; and king Edward's chair, in which his majesty was crowned, was placed about the middle of the area before the altar.

In the lord great chamberlain's seat, being a large box on the south side of the area, between the great south-east pillar of the theatre and the next pillar eastward, were seated the princes and princesses of the royal family.

And over them, in a large gallery between the said two pillars, ambassadors and foreign ministers, and strangers of quality.

THE OATH.

Sermon being ended, the king uncovered his head, and the archbishop repaired to his majesty, and asked him, "Sir, are you willing to take the oath usually taken by your predecessors?"

And the king answered, "I am willing."

Then the archbishop ministered these questions; to which the king (having a book in his hand), answered as followeth:

Archb. Sir, will you grant and keep, and by your oath confirm to the people of England, the laws and customs to them granted by the kings of England, your lawful and religious predecessors; and namely, the laws, customs, and franchises granted to the clergy by the glorious king St. Edward, your predecessor, according to the laws of

God, the true profession of the gospel established in this kingdom, and agreeing to the prerogative of the kings thereof, and the ancient customs of this realm*?

King. I grant, and promise to keep them.

Archb. Sir, will you keep peace and godly agreement entirely, according to your power, to the holy church, the clergy, and the people?

King. I will keep it.

Archb. Sir, will you, to your power, cause law, justice, and discretion, in mercy and truth, to be executed in all your judgments?

King. I will.

Archb. Sir, will you grant to hold and keep the rightful customs which the commonalty of this your kingdom have? and will you defend and uphold them to the honour of God, so much as in you lieth?

King. I grant, and promise so to do.

Then the petition or request of the bishops to the king was read by one of that sacred order with a clear voice, in the name of the rest standing by;

Our lord and king, we beseech you to pardon us, and to grant and preserve unto us, and the churches committed to our charge, all canonical privileges, and due law and justice; and that you will protect and defend us, as every good king in his kingdom ought to be protector and defender of the bishops and churches under their government.

The king answered,

With a willing and devout heart, I promise and grant you my pardon; and that I will preserve and maintain to you, and the churches committed to your charge, all canonical privileges, and due law and justice: and that I will be your protector and defender to my power, by the assistance of God, as every good king in his kingdom ought in right to protect and defend the bishops and churches under their government.

The declaration against transubstantiation and the authority of the church of Rome, was also read by the archbishop, and repeated by his majesty, who afterwards signed the same.

* I am well aware that this promise of the king to keep the laws, &c., granted to the clergy by Edward, has been questioned in regard to its authenticity; but, although it may not harmonize with historical facts, yet little doubt exists, that the question was put to the king in the manner stated in the text.

Then the king rose from his chair, and being attended by the lord great chamberlain, and supported by the two bishops, and the sword of state carried before him, went to the altar, and laying his hand upon the Evangelists, took the oath following: "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God, and the contents of this book;" and then he kissed the book.

THE ANOINTING.

This being done, the king went to his faldstool (which was placed towards the altar,) and kneeled thereat; the queen in the mean time came from her chair to her faldstool, on the left hand of the king's, at which she also kneeled, whilst the choirs sung the anthem, *Veni Creator*, or, Come, Holy Ghost.

After which the archbishop said the following prayer:

We beseech thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, for this thy servant, king George, that as at first thou didst bring him into the world by thy Divine Providence, and through the flower of his age hast preserved him unto this present day; so thou wouldst enrich him evermore with thy bounty, and fill him with grace and truth, and daily increase in him all goodness, in the sight of God and man; that being placed in the throne of supreme government, assisted by thy heavenly grace, and by thy mercy defended from all his enemies, he may govern the people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the collect the archbishop with a loud voice said,

Archb. The Lord be with you.—*Response.* And with thy spirit.

Archb. Lift up your hearts.—*Response.* We lift them up unto the Lord.

Archb. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Response. It is meet and right so to do.

Archb. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks

unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God, the exalter of the humble, and the strength of thy chosen, who, by the anointing with oil, didst make and consecrate kings, &c.

This preface being ended, the choirs sung the well-known coronation anthem, *Zadok the Priest*, composed by Handel; and in the meantime, the king rose from his devotions, and went to the altar, supported as before, and attended by the lord great chamberlain, who disrobed his majesty of his mantle and surcoat of crimson velvet, which were carried immediately into the king's traverse in St. Edward's chapel; and king Edward's chair, with a footstool before it, being placed in the midst of the area or sacrarium, before the altar, and being covered over with cloth of gold, his majesty seated himself in it.

Then four knights of the garter, appointed by his majesty, held a pall or pallet of cloth of gold over the king, during the whole ceremony of the anointing; and the several places of his majesty's habit for the anointing, which were closed with ribands, being first opened by the archbishop, the ampul, with the oil and spoon, were brought from the altar by the dean of Westminster, who poured the holy oil into the spoon, wherewith the archbishop anointed the king, in form of a cross:

1. On the palms of his majesty's hands, saying, "Be these hands anointed with holy oil."

2. On the breast, saying, "Be this breast anointed," &c.

3. On both shoulders, and between the shoulders, saying, "Be these shoulders anointed," &c.

4. On the bowings of both his arms, saying, "Be these arms anointed," &c.

Lastly, on the crown of the head, saying, "Be this head anointed with holy oil, as kings

and prophets were anointed, and as Solomon was anointed king." &c.

Then the dean of Westminster laid the ampul and spoon again upon the altar, and the archbishop placing himself on the north side thereof, said this prayer, the king kneeling at his footstool :

God, the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was anointed by his Father with the oil of gladness, &c.

This prayer being ended, the king rose and sat down in the chair, and the dean of Westminster having first dried all the places anointed, save the head and the hands, with fine cotton-wool, delivered to him by the lord great chamberlain, closed again the places that were opened in his garments.

Then a shallow coif of lawn was by the lord great chamberlain delivered to the archbishop, and by him put upon the king's head, and the linen gloves (part of the regalia) were put upon his hands, because of the anointing; and, in the meantime the anthem psalm lxxiv. verse 9, and psalm xviii. verse 51, "Behold, O God! our defender; and look upon the face of thine anointed. Great prosperity givest thou unto the king, and wilt show loving-kindness to thine anointed for evermore. Hallelujah!"

THE INVESTING.

The anthem being ended, the dean of Westminster brought from the altar the *Colobium Sindonis*, (or fine white cambric surplice without sleeves,) which he put upon the king, standing before his chair; the archbishop saying this prayer or benediction :

O God, the king of kings, and lord of lords, by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice, vouchsafe, with thine especial favour and grace, to bless this thy servant George our king, &c.

Then the dean of Westminster brought from the altar the *Supertunica*, surcoat, or close pall

of cloth of gold, and a girdle of the same, to which the sword was after fastened, and arrayed the king therewith.

Then the tissue, hose, and buskins, and the sandals of cloth of gold, were, by the dean, put upon the king, his majesty sitting down.

After this, the dean of Westminster brought the spurs from the altar, and delivered them to the lord great chamberlain, who, kneeling down, seemingly put them on the king's heels, but indeed only touches the king's heels therewith, and forthwith took them off again, that his majesty might not be incumbered with them, by reason of the length of his robes; and redelivering them to the dean of Westminster, they were by him laid upon the altar.

Then the nobleman who bore the sword of state in the procession, in lieu thereof delivered a sword in a scabbard of purple velvet, to the archbishop, who laying it on the altar; said the following prayer :

Hear our prayers, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by the right-hand of thy majesty, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify this thy servant, George our king, who is now to be girt with this sword, &c.

The prayer ended, the archbishop, assisted by other bishops, delivered the sword into the king's hands, saying, "Receive this kingly sword, delivered unto thee by the hands of the bishops," &c.

And the king standing up, delivered it to the lord great chamberlain, who girded his majesty therewith; whereupon the king sitting down again, the archbishop said, "Remember of whom the Psalmist did prophesy, when he said, gird thee with thy sword upon thy thigh, O thou most mighty," &c.

Then the king arising, the dean of Westminster took the armil from the master of the great wardrobe, and put it about his majesty's neck, and tied it to the bowings of his arms above

and below the elbows, the archbishop saying, "Receive this arnil, as a token of the Divine mercy embracing thee on every side," &c.

Lastly, the mantle, or open pall of cloth of gold and purple brocade, lined with red taffata, was delivered by the same gentleman to the dean of Westminster, who put it upon the king standing: and his majesty being invested therewith, sat down, while the dean of Westminster was bringing the orb with the cross, from the altar, which was delivered into the king's right hand by the archbishop, saying, "Receive this imperial pall and orb, and remember that the whole world is subject to the power and empire of God," &c.

THE CROWNING.

The king being thus invested, the archbishop, standing before the altar, took St. Edward's crown into his hands, and laying it before him again upon the altar, said this prayer, the king kneeling at his footstool:

O God, the crown of the faithful, bless, we beseech thee, and sanctify, &c.

Then the king sat down again in king Edward's chair, and the archbishop coming from the altar with the crown between his hands, assisted by the dean of Westminster, and other bishops, reverently put it upon the king's head.

At which, the trumpets sounded a point of war; the drums, which were without, beat a charge, and the people, with loud and repeated shouts, cried, "God save the king!"

And a signal being given from the battlements of the north-cross of the church, by two gunners, one of them took his station on the inner roof over the area, to observe the exact minute of his majesty's crowning, and thereupon, hastening to the battlements, commanded his companion (there placed) to fire a musquet, and light a port-fire. Upon which, the great guns in St. James's park were fired; and upon the

same sign the ordnance of the tower were discharged.

The noise and acclamation ceasing, the archbishop went on, saying these two prayers, standing before the king:

1. God crown thee with a crown of fortitude and honour, of righteousness and glory, &c.

2. O eternal God, King of kings, fountain of all authority and power, bless, we beseech thee, this, thy servant, who, in lowly devotion, boweth his head unto thy Divine Majesty, &c.

At which words the king bowed his head.

Then the archbishop read the *Comfortare*, "Be strong, and of good courage, observe the commandments of God, and walk in his ways; and the Almighty God strengthen thee," &c.

After which, the sixth anthem, Psalm cxlvii. verse 12; Isaiah xxxiii. verse 7; Psalm xxi. verse 23, "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem," was sung by the choirs.

While the anthem was singing, the king delivered the orb to the dean of Westminster, who laid it again upon the altar: and then his majesty, rising up, went from his chair to the altar, where his sword was ungirt, and offered by his majesty in the scabbard, but was immediately redeemed (by the king's appointment), for an hundred shillings; and the nobleman redeeming it, drew it out, and so bore it naked before the king, during the rest of the solemnity.

The anthem being sung, all the peers put on their coronets.

The two persons representing the dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine, put on their caps of estate.

And the kings of arms put on their coronets.

But the most splendid part of this scene, arose from the appearance of the Knights of the Bath, whose caps were adorned with large plumes of white, which produced a fine chivalrous appearance.

THE INVESTITURE PER ANNULUM ET BACULUM.

The king returning from the altar, and having seated himself again in his chair, the master of the jewel-house delivered the king's ring (in which a table ruby is enchased, and on that St. George's cross engraven) to the archbishop; and the king drawing off his linen glove, the archbishop put it on the fourth finger of his majesty's right hand, saying, "Receive the ring of kingly dignity, and the seal of catholic faith; that as thou art this day consecrated head and prince of this kingdom and people," &c.

Then, according to ancient custom, the lord of the manor of Worksop in Nottinghamshire, presented his majesty with a rich glove, which the king put on his right hand, immediately before he received the sceptre; and his majesty still sitting in his chair, the archbishop took the sceptre with the cross, and put it into the king's right hand, saying, "Receive the sceptre, the ensign of kingly power and justice."

Whereupon the lord of the manor before-mentioned, supported the king's right arm, or held the said sceptre for his majesty, as occasion required.

After which the archbishop delivered the rod or sceptre with the dove, into the king's left hand, saying, "Receive the rod of equity and mercy; and God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, look down graciously upon thee; direct and assist thee in the administration of that dignity which he hath given thee," &c.

THE SECOND OBLATION AND BENE-DICTION.

The king having been anointed, invested, and crowned; and having received all his royal ornaments, went towards the altar, holding both the sceptres in his hands, and, kneeling there upon the steps, put off his crown, and delivered the

sceptre with the cross, and the sceptre with the dove, into the hands of two noblemen, to be held by them, whilst he made his second oblation, which was a mark weight of gold (*viz.*, eight ounces troy) delivered by the treasurer of the household to the lord great chamberlain of England, and by him to the king, and received by the archbishop into the basin, and by him reverently laid upon the altar.

Whereupon the king, still kneeling, and taking again the sceptres into his hands, the archbishop blessed the king and people.

After which, the king rose and put on his crown; and, being attended as before, went again to king Edward's chair, and sat down in it, and there vouchsafed to kiss the archbishops and bishops assisting at his coronation, as they kneeled before him, one after another.

This done, the choirs began to sing the 7th anthem, "*Te Deum laudamus*," &c.

At the beginning whereof, the king, having the four swords carried before him, and being attended by the archbishops and bishops, and the great officers, turning to the right hand, went up to the theatre, whereon the throne was placed, and reposed himself in his chair of state, on the east-side of the theatre, below his throne, where his majesty sat at his coming into the choir.

THE ENTHRONING AND HOMAGE.

Te Deum being ended, the king ascended the throne, being lifted up by the archbishops and bishops, and other peers of the kingdom, who, with the noblemen that bore the swords before him, stood about the throne and steps.

The king being seated in his throne, the archbishop, standing before him, said this exhortation.

Stand firm, and hold fast from henceforth that place of royal dignity, whereof thou art the lawful and undoubted heir, by succession from thy forefathers, &c.

The exhortation being ended, all the peers then present did their homage to the king, as followeth :

First the archbishop of Canterbury kneeling before his majesty's knees, the other bishops doing the same behind and about him, did him homage, saying,

I (Thomas) archbishop of Canterbury, will be faithful and true, and faith and truth will bear unto you, our sovereign lord, and your heirs, kings of Great Britain : and I will do, and truly acknowledge the service of the land, which I claim to hold of you, as in right of the church. So help me God.

Then rising, he kissed the king's left cheek. After him the rest of the bishops present did the like, and retired.

Then the first duke, having in his hand the words of homage, in the behalf of himself and the rest of the dukes, kneeled down, and said as follows :

I — duke of —, do become your liege man of life and limb, and of earthly worship : and faith and truth I will bear unto you to live and die against all manner of folks. So help me God.

In like manner, the first marquis did homage for himself and the rest. And so did the premier earl for the other earls, the first viscount for the viscounts, and the first baron for the barons.

After which, the dukes, and the other orders of the nobility respectively, re-ascended, and taking off their coronets, touched the crown upon the king's head, promising by that ceremony, to support it with all their power ; and, kissing the king's left cheek, were, of his majesty's abundant grace, severally kissed by him at the same time, and so descended.

During the solemnity of the homage, the treasurer of his majesty's household, attended by Garter and the usher of the black rod, threw amongst the people, from the south, west, and north sides of the theatre, medals of gold and

silver, prepared for that purpose, as their majesties' princely donative or largess ; which he continued to do till after the queen was crowned.

The medals of the queen had on one side a half length of her majesty, and in the exergue this inscription, Charlotte, D. G. M. FR. ET HIBER. REGINA. On the other side her majesty at full length, with a seraph placing a crown on her head ; and these words in the QUÆSITUM MERITIS, " By merit obtained."

In the mean time the gentlemen of the chapel royal, with the instrumental music, and the choir of Westminster, sung and played together the anthem, " The Lord is arisen," &c., as a solemn conclusion of the king's part of the coronation.

At the end of which, the trumpets sounded and the drums beat, and all the people shouted, crying out, " God save the king !"

THE ANOINTING, CROWNING, AND EN- THRONING OF THE QUEEN.

The anthem being ended, the archbishop of Canterbury went to the altar ; and the queen rose from her chair, on the south side of the area, where she had reposed herself during the time the king was anointed, crowned, and enthronized ; and, being supported by two bishops, went towards the altar, attended by the ladies who bore her majesty's train, together with the ladies of the bed-chamber, &c., and kneeled down at the steps of the altar, the carpets and cushions being spread and laid there for her, in the like manner as they had been before for the king.

Then the archbishop, being on the north side of the altar, said this prayer :

Almighty and everlasting God, the fountain of all goodness, give ear, we beseech thee, to our prayers, and multiply thy blessings upon this thy servant, whom, in thy name, with all humble devotion, we consecrate our queen, &c.

This done, the queen rose, and went to the faldstool, at which she was to be anointed and crowned, placed between king Edward's chair and the steps of the altar, where the groom of the stole to her majesty (with the two ladies of the bed-chamber, assisted by the queen's women), took off her rich circle or coronet.

Then the queen kneeled down, and the archbishop poured the holy oil on the crown of her head, in form of a cross, using these words :

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, let the anointing of this oil increase thine honour, &c.

After which, the same ladies opened her apparel for the anointing her majesty on the breast, which the archbishop also performed, pouring on the holy oil in form of a cross, and using the same words, *viz.* :

In the name of the Father, &c.

After this, the archbishop said this prayer :

Almighty and everlasting God, we beseech thee, of thy abundant goodness, pour out the spirit of thy grace and blessing upon this thy servant queen Charlotte, &c.

Then the ladies (having first dried the place anointed with fine cotton wool), closed the queen's robes at her breast, and after put a linen coif upon her head, because of the anointing.

Which done, the archbishop put the ring (which he received from the master of the jewel-house) on the fourth finger of the queen's right hand, saying, "Receive this ring, the seal of a sincere faith, &c.

Then the archbishop took the crown in his hands from off the altar, and reverently set it on the queen's head, saying, "Receive the crown of glory, honour, and joy; and God, the crown of the faithful, who, by our episcopal hands (though most unworthy) hath this day

set a crown of pure gold upon thy head, enrich," &c.

The queen being crowned, all the peeresses present put on their coronets; and then the archbishop put the sceptre with the cross into her majesty's right hand, and the ivory rod with the dove into her left, and said the following prayer :

O Lord, the fountain of all good things, and the giver of all perfection; grant unto this thy servant Charlotte, our queen, &c.

The queen being thus anointed and crowned, and having received all her royal ornaments, the choirs sung an anthem from Psalm xiv. verses 1, 10, 14, 15, 16; Psalm xiv. verses 11 and 17; Psalm cxlvii. verse 12; Isaiah xlix. verse 23.

As soon as the anthem begun, the queen rose from her faldstool; and, being supported by the two bishops, and her train borne, and attended as before, went up to the theatre; and as she approached towards the king, bowed herself reverently to his majesty sitting upon his throne; and so was conducted to her own throne on the left hand of the king, where she reposed herself till the anthem was ended.

After which, the archbishop pronounced the benediction, *viz.*, "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding," &c.

The awfulness of the ceremony of their majesties' receiving the sacrament was heightened to a most impressive degree by the conduct of the king, who whispered the archbishop, and asked whether it was not customary to lay aside the crown on such an occasion. His grace, surprised at the question, which he could not solve, turned to bishop Pearce, who knew no more than himself; when his majesty, concluding that humility best became such an act of devotion, took off his crown, and put it

down during the administration of the sacrament.

THE MANNER OF THEIR MAJESTIES' RETURN TO WESTMINSTER-HALL.

The ceremony of their majesties' coronation being thus performed, the king rose, having the crown on his head, and both the sceptres in his hands; and being attended by the great officers, and the lords who carried the four swords, and the other lords who carried St. Edward's staff, the spurs, and orb, having again received them from off the high altar, and bearing them before his majesty, the king descended from the theatre, and passed through the door on the south side of the high altar, into St. Edward's chapel, and came before the altar, at the head of St. Edward's shrine or tomb, where the regalia before mentioned, *viz.*, the staff, spurs, and orb, were delivered to the dean of Westminster, who laid them on the altar.

The queen also, descending from the theatre at the same time with the king, passed by the high altar, through the door on the north side thereof, into St. Edward's chapel, having her crown on her head, and her sceptre and ivory rod in her hands (attended as before,) and repaired also to the altar in the said chapel.

Then the king delivered the two sceptres to the archbishop, who laid them upon the altar; and his majesty taking off his crown, delivered it also to the archbishop, who placed it upon the said altar.

The queen also delivered her two sceptres to the archbishop; and taking off her crown, delivered it likewise to him; all which he placed upon the altar.

This done, the king withdrew into his traverse, at the west end of the said chapel, where he sat down in his chair, and was disrobed by the lord great chamberlain of the robes called

St. Edward's, which were delivered to the dean of Westminster, who laid them upon the altar before-mentioned.

The queen likewise retired to her traverse on the left hand of the king's, and there reposed herself until the king was revested.

The king was then arrayed, by the lord great chamberlain, in his royal robes of purple velvet, furred with ermine. And the king and queen coming before St. Edward's altar, the archbishop (being still revested as before) put two other imperial crowns upon their majesties' heads, with caps of purple velvet, *viz.*, the crown of state upon the king's head, and a rich crown upon the queen's; which their majesties continued to wear all the rest of the day.

The archbishop also put into the king's right hand the sceptre with the cross, and into his left hand the orb or globe with the cross; and into the queen's right hand her sceptre with the cross, and into her left hand the ivory rod with the dove; which done, the archbishop and bishops divested themselves of their copes, and left them there, proceeding in their rochets, or usual habit.

Then the queen, having her crown on her head, and the sceptre and ivory rod in her hands, and being supported and attended, and her train borne as before, proceeded from St. Edward's chapel over the theatre, by the north side of her throne, and so through the choir, in the same manner as she came to the church (saving that the lords who bore her regalia thither, did not go now immediately before her, but repaired to their respective places in the procession, according to their several degrees,) and was again received under her canopy by the barons of the Cinque Ports, who attended without the door of the choir for that purpose.

The king likewise, having the four swords, and the sceptre with the dove borne before

him, with his crown on his head, and in his hands the sceptre with the cross and the orb, a noble lord supporting his right arm, proceeded out of St. Edward's chapel, assisted and attended, and his train borne as before, and passed over the theatre by the south side of his throne, and so through the choir, in the same manner as he came to the church, (saving that the lords, who, in the former procession carried any of the regalia, which were now left behind in St. Edward's chapel, (as the spur and staff,) or which his majesty did now bear himself, (as the orb, and sceptre with the cross,) went now in their respective places in the procession, according to their several degrees,) and was received in like manner under his canopy by the barons of the Cinque Ports at the choir door.

Thus this most glorious and splendid assembly proceeded down the body of the church, through the great west door, and so returned to Westminster-hall by the same way it came; the dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine wearing their caps of estate, the peers and peeresses their coronets, the bishops their caps, and the kings of arms their coronets.

All the way from the church to the hall, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the vast multitude of beholders filled the air with loud acclamations and shouts.

While the office of coronation was performing in the church, the table whereat their majesties were to dine in Westminster-hall was covered by the serjeant and gentlemen of the ewry: then the officers of the pantry set the king's salt of state and cadinet on the table, and another cadinet for the queen.

We shall not trouble our readers with the usual bills of fare on this great occasion, because they vary according to the season; only observing, that there are usually tables on each side of the

hall, besides that of their majesties; the first on the west side of the hall was for the dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine, the four great officers, the dukes, duchesses, and others of the principal nobility.—The second of the same side for earls and others of the principal nobility.—The third for the barons and baronesses.

The first table on the east side of the hall was for the archbishops, bishops, barons of the cinque ports, judges, the king's ancient serjeant, attorney and solicitor general.—The second for the king's serjeants at law, masters in chancery, six clerks, lord-mayor and aldermen of London.—And the third for the kings of arms, heralds, and pursuivants.—On all these seven tables, no less than 1,445 dishes of the most delicious and rich viands were served up.

The noble and illustrious personages who made up this grand assembly, being seated with great ceremony at their respective tables, as above, and dinner being ready, his majesty, with his crown on his head, and the sceptre with the cross, and the orb in his hands, attended and supported, and his train borne as before, preceded by the lord great chamberlain, and the swords being also borne before him, came out of the court of wards, where he had reposed himself till dinner was ready, and seated himself in his chair of state, at the table.

Immediately after, the queen with her crown on her head, and the sceptre and ivory rod in her hands, preceded by the vice-chamberlain and lord chamberlain, and her train borne as before, and followed by the ladies of the bed-chamber, and her majesty's women, came forth from her retirement through the court of wards, and seated herself also in her chair of state at the table, on the left hand of the king.

Then the first course of hot meat was served up to their majesty's table in the manner following.

The lords of the sewer go to the dresser of the kitchen, and the master of the horse, who officiates that day as serjeant of the silver-scuttery, calls for a dish of meat, wipes the bottom of the dish, and also the cover within and without, takes assay of it, and covers it; and then it is conveyed to their majesties' table with the following ceremony:

First, two clerks comptrollers, in velvet gowns trimmed very rich with black silk and gold-lace buttons, and black velvet caps in their hands, raised in the head.

Two clerks of the green-cloth, in the same habit as before.

The masters of the household. The cofferer.

Six serjeants at arms, with their maces on their shoulders, two a-breast.

Three great officers, in their robes of estate, and their coronets on their heads, mounted on fine horses, richly trapped, viz. :

The earl marshal, with the marshal's staff of gold, enamelled at the ends with black.

The lord high steward with his white staff.

The lord high constable, with the constable's staff.

Six serjeants at arms more, with their maces on their shoulders, two a-breast.

The comptroller of his majesty's household; the treasurer of his majesty's household; the assistant to the queen's sewer; her majesty's sewer; the assistant to the king's sewer; his majesty's sewer.

Then thirty-two dishes of hot meat, brought up by the knights of the Bath, bareheaded; after which, a supply of several dishes more of hot meat is brought by private gentlemen. Then follows the mess of pottage, or gruel, called *Dillegrout**, prepared by the king's master-cook, and brought up to the table by the lord of the manor of Addington in Surrey.

Two clerks of the kitchen in black figured sattin gowns, and black velvet caps in their hands.

Dinner being placed on the table by the king and queen's carvers, with the help of the earl's sewers, and their assistants, the lord great chamberlain, preceded by the usher of the black rod, assisted by the cup-bearer, and followed by the assistants before-mentioned, brought up the great basin and ewer for his majesty to wash: whereupon the king rose, and having delivered the sceptre with the cross to the lord appointed for that purpose, and the orb to the bishop of Bath and Wells, the cup-bearer poured out the water upon the king's hands; and the lord of the manor of Heydon in Essex (having accompanied the cup-bearer from the cupboard) held the towel to the king.

The like ceremony was used with regard to her majesty's washing.

After which the dean of his majesty's chapel royal, said grace; and their majesties sat down to dinner, as did likewise the peers and peeresses, at the tables mentioned before.

On the king's right-hand stood the noblemen who carried the four swords, holding them naked and erected all dinner-time; and nearer the king stood the lords who held the orb and sceptre; and on his majesty's left-hand, the lord great chamberlain.

On the queen's left-hand stood her lord chamberlain and vice-chamberlain, who bore her sceptre and ivory rod, delivered over to them by the bishops of London and Winchester, a little before.

Also the lord of the manor of Wimondley in Hertfordshire, being assisted by the cup-bearer and his assistants, went to the cupboard, and

* The word "grout" signifies a sort of coarse meal, and the following is the method of preparing the dish mentioned above:—The grouts are to be boiled in water, according to the intended thickness; when they become soft, mace, wine, sugar, and currants are to be added. It is then usually served up in a bowl, with a toast laid round it, cut in narrow pieces.

brought his majesty the first cup of drink in a silver bowl gilt, which he presented to the king on his knee; and his majesty having drank thereof, returned the cup to him, which he received for his fee.

Before the second course was brought in, the king's champion, who enjoyed that office as being lord of the manor of Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, entered the hall completely armed, in one of his majesty's best suits of white armour, mounted on a goodly white horse, richly caparisoned, in manner following :

Two trumpets, with the champion's arms on their banners; the serjeant trumpet, with his mace on his shoulder; two serjeants at arms, with their maces on their shoulders; the champion's two esquires, richly habited, one on the right hand, with the champion's lance carried upright; the other on the left hand, with his target, and the champion's arms depicted thereon; the herald of arms with a paper in his hand, containing the words of the challenge.

The earl marshal in his robes and coronet, on horseback, with the marshal's staff in his hand; the champion on horseback, with a gauntlet in his right hand, his helmet on his head, adorned with a great plume of feathers, white, blue, and red; the lord high-constable in his robes and coronet, and collar of the order, on horseback, with the constables staff.

Four pages richly apparelled, attendants on the champion.

The passage to their majesties' table being cleared by the knight marshal, the herald at

arms with a loud voice, proclaimed the champion's challenge at the lower end of the hall, in the words following:

If any person, of what degree soever, high or low, shall deny or gainsay, our sovereign lord king George III., king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c., grandson and next heir to our sovereign lord king George II., the last sovereign, deceased, to be right heir to the imperial crown of this realm of Great Britain, or that he ought not to enjoy the same; here is his champion, who saith that he lieth, and is a false traitor, being ready in person to combat with him; and in this quarrel will adventure his life against him, on what day soever he shall be appointed.

And then the champion threw down his gauntlet; which having lain some small time, the herald took up, and re-delivered it to the champion*.

(This was one of the most pleasing incidents in the ceremony, and it passed off exceedingly well; the champion acting his part admirably, and dashing down his gauntlet with proud defiance. The horse which he rode, was that on which George II. was mounted at the battle of Dettingen: its head, as well as that of its rider, was adorned with a large plume of red, white, and blue feathers.)

Then they advanced in the same order to the middle of the hall, where the said herald made proclamation as before; and lastly, to the foot of the steps, when the said herald, and those who preceded him, going to the top of the steps, made proclamation a third time, at the end whereof the champion threw down his gauntlet; which, after some time, being taken up, and re-

* There appears to have been what may be called, a dressed rehearsal of this ceremony, a few days before it actually took place. The following curious paragraph appeared in the Public Advertiser of September 19, 1761:—"Last night Westminster-hall was illuminated, and John Dymocke, Esq. put on his armour, and tried a grey horse, which his late majesty rode at the battle of Dettingen, before his royal highness the duke of York, prince Henry Frederick, the duke of Devonshire, earl Talbot, and many other persons of distinction. There were also another grey and four other horses, which were walked and rode several times up and down the hall. Earl Talbot rode one of them, a very fine brown bay horse, which his lordship proposed to ride, on the side of the champion, at the coronation."

delivered to him by the herald, he made a low obeisance to his majesty: whereupon the cup-bearer, assisted as before, brought to the king a gilt bowl of wine, with a cover, his majesty drank to the champion, and sent him the said bowl by the cup-bearer, accompanied with his assistants; which the champion (having put on his gauntlet) received, and retiring a little, drank thereof, and made his humble reverence to his majesty; and, being accompanied as before, departed out of the hall, taking the said bowl and cover with him as his fee.

There is probably no part of the coronation ceremony so popularly interesting as the champion's challenge; for, it is a kind of scenic exhibition which fixes itself on the mind, and seems an undecayed fragment of England's former chivalric exercises*. Rapin relates, that the first mention of the king's champion appearing at a coronation, was in 1377, at the crowning of king Richard the Second. He, however, supposes that the office was of much greater antiquity, since the then champion claimed it by virtue of his manor of Scrivelsby, which evidently shews that the duty was vested in that manor. Philip de Marnigun, who lived in the time of king Henry III. is known to have been the king's champion, and some writers suppose that the office existed antecedent to the Norman conquest. They support this argument by stating, that as the early Norman sovereigns had no right to the English throne, so they would not rest their pretensions on the issue of a single combat, and that in conse-

quence the ceremony of a challenge was suppressed until time had given somewhat of a legal title to the monarchs of the Norman line.

Immediately after which, the officers of arms descending from their gallery, Garter, and the two provincial kings of arms, with their coronets on their heads, followed by the heralds and pursuivants, came and stood at the lower end of the hall, and making their obeisance to his majesty, proceeded to the middle of the hall, where they made a second obeisance; and being come to the foot of the steps, and there making a third obeisance, they ascended the steps, and, at the top thereof Garter cried *Largess* thrice, and (having received his majesty's largess) proclaimed the king's style in latin, as follows:

Serenissimi, potentissimi, et excellentissimi monarchæ Georgii III. Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ regis, fidei defensoris.

Upon which, all the officers making their obeisances, Garter the second time proclaimed his majesty's style in French, as followeth:

Du très-haut, très-puissant, et très-excellent monarque George III., par la grace de Dieu, roy de la Grande-Bretagne, France, et Irlande, défenseur de la foy.

The officers of arms making another reverence, Garter the third time, proclaimed the king's style in English as followeth:

Of the most high, most mighty, and most excellent monarch, George III., by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith.

* The following was the provision of arms, &c., made for the champion at the coronation of king James II., on the 23d of April, 1685:—A complete suit of white armour, a pair of gauntlets, a sword and hanger, a case of rich pistols, an oval shield, with the champion's arms painted on it, and a gilded lance fringed about the handles. All these would have become the champion's fee, but that certain compensation money was allowed for his re-delivering them to the earl of Dartmouth, master of the armory. There were also provided a field-saddle of crimson velvet, with breast-plate, and other caparisons for the horse, richly laced with gold and silver, a plume of red, white, and blue feathers, consisting of eighteen falls, and a heron's top, another plume for the horse's head, and trumpet-banners with the champion's own arms depicted upon them.

After which they all made their obeisance, and descending, went backwards to the middle of the hall, and keeping their faces towards the king, and there crying *Largess* thrice, proclaimed the king's style in Latin, French, and English, as before.

And lastly, coming to the lower end of the hall in the same order, they again cried *Largess*; and proclaimed his majesty's style in like manner, and then repairing to their table, sat down to dinner.

His majesty was pleased, after dinner, to confer the honour of knighthood upon John Bridge, Esq., standard-bearer; Owen Jones, Esq., senior gentleman of the band of gentlemen pensioners; and Charles Townley, Esq., Clarendieux, king of arms.

For the accommodation of the company, double rows of tables extended down the whole length of the hall, the ladies being placed next to the walls. The sight was most splendid from the galleries, whence many persons of quality, like prisoners, exclaiming, "Pray, remember the poor," let down handkerchiefs tied together, and strings with baskets suspended to them, earnestly requesting some of the good things below, to satisfy their craving appetites after so long an abstinence.

The entertainment continued till about ten o'clock, when their majesties retired; but they were pleased to let the peeresses go first, that they might not be incommoded by the pressure of the crowd.

Their majesties then rose from table, and received again their regalia, which had been held near them all dinner-time: and thus, with their crowns on their heads, and the orb and sceptres in their hands, and attended, and their trains borne as before, and the four swords, and sceptre with the dove, being borne before his majesty, they withdrew into the court of

wards, where the crowns, orb, and sceptres being delivered to the dean of Westminster, and master of the jewel-house, their majesties departed in the same manner as they came thither.

After which, the nobility, and all others who dined in Westminster-hall, departed severally to their respective abodes and habitations.

When the company broke up, the populace were admitted into the hall, which was presently cleared of all the moveables that could be carried away.

A short time before the royal procession began to march, proceeded that of her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales, from the house of lords, across Old Palace-yard, on a platform erected for that purpose, to the south cross of Westminster Abbey. She was conducted by the hand by his royal highness prince William Henry, dressed in white and silver, whose engaging affability and filial complacence gained, in a moment, the esteem of all the spectators. Her train, which was of silk, was but short, and therefore not borne by any person: and her hair flowed down her shoulders in hanging curls. She had no cap, but only a circlet of diamonds.

The rest of the princes and princesses, her royal highness's children, followed in the following order:

His royal highness prince Henry Frederick, also in white and silver, handing his sister, the princess Louisa Anne; who was dressed in a slip with hanging sleeves. Then

His royal highness prince Frederic William, likewise in white and silver, handing his youngest sister, the princess Caroline Matilda, dressed also in a slip with hanging sleeves.

Both the young princesses had their hair combed upwards, which was contrived to lie flat at the back of their heads in a very pretty manner.

The procession was closed by the three Mahometan ambassadors, then at our court, in the proper dresses of their country, having their turbans, of fine muslin, on their heads, and long gowns of flowered and laced silk; their scabbards were crimson, and in each of them were enclosed a dagger and a poinard. They carried no sabres, nor had any thing about their necks.

As this procession was preceded only by a drum, it did not alarm the populace waiting to see the king and queen, otherwise some disturbance might have happened.

L. Ligonier, as commanding officer of the guard on duty, had a small tent fixed on the left side of the platform in Old Palace-yard, where he paid his salute to their majesties, as they passed in procession; 2,800 of the foot guards were on duty all the time.

A number of sailors, all clean dressed, came to the platform and insisted on standing there to see the procession, which had like to have occasioned a quarrel between them and the soldiers; but the commanding officer, to prevent a disturbance, ordered that they should remain there, provided they would be quiet; which they punctually complied with; but when the king passed by, they could contain themselves no longer, the boatswain began with his call, and the sailors gave three loud cheers, with which his majesty appeared highly delighted.

His majesty, soon after his arrival at St. James's on Tuesday evening, expressed very great satisfaction, on hearing that no material accident had happened among the spectators at his coronation.

The person who undertook the awning over the stage on which the coronation procession past, had 500*l.*, and took the chance whether the cloth covering would be wanting or not.

By way of supplement to the foregoing account, we add the following letter from a gen-

tleman in London, to his friend in the country, as it contains some particulars omitted in that relation.

“ Sir,

“ As the friendship of Mr. Rolles, who had procured me a pass ticket, as they call it, enabled me to be present both in the hall and the abbey; and as I had a fine view of the procession out of doors, from a one-pair of stairs room, which your neighbour, sir Edward, had hired at the small price of one hundred guineas, on purpose to oblige his acquaintance, I will endeavour to give you as minute an account as I can of all the particulars omitted in the public papers.

“ First then, conceive to yourself the fronts of the houses in all the streets, that could command the least point of view, lined with scaffolding, like so many galleries or boxes, raised one above another to the very roofs. These were covered with carpets and cloths of different colours, which presented a pleasant variety to the eye; and if you consider the brilliant appearance of the spectators who were seated in them (many being richly dressed) you will easily imagine that this was no indifferent part of the show. The mob underneath made a pretty contrast to the rest of the company. Add to this that though we had nothing but wet and cloudy weather for some time before, the day cleared up, and the sun shone auspiciously, as it were, in compliment to the grand festival. Had it rained, half the spectators were so exalted, that they could not have seen the ceremony, as a temporary roof put over the platform, on account of the uncertainty of the weather, was exceeding low. This roof was covered with a kind of sail-cloth; which, on orders being given to roll it up, an honest jack-tar climbed up to the top, and stripped it off in a minute or two; whereas the persons appointed for that service

might have been an hour about it. This gave us not only a more extensive view, but let the light in upon every part of the procession.

"I should tell you, that a rank of foot soldiers were placed on each side within the platform; which was an encroachment on the spectators; for at the last coronation I am informed they stood below it; and it was not a little surprising to see the officers familiarly conversing and walking arm in arm with many of them, till we were let into the secret, that they were gentlemen, who had put on the dresses of common soldiers, for what purpose I need not mention.

"On the outside were stationed, at proper distances, several parties of horse-guards, whose horses somewhat incommoded the people, that pressed incessantly upon them, by their prancing and capering; though luckily I do not hear of any great mischief being done. I must confess, it gave me pain to see the soldiers, both horse and foot, obliged most unmercifully to belabour the heads of the mob with their broad swords, bayonets, and muskets; but it was not unpleasant to observe several tipping the horse soldiers, slyly from time to time, (some with halfpence, and some with silver, as they could muster up the cash) to let them pass between the horses to get nearer the platform; after which these unconscionable gentry drove them back again.

"As soon as it was day-break (for I chose to go to my place over night), we were diverted with seeing the coaches and chairs of the nobility and gentry passing along with much ado; and several persons, very richly drest, were obliged to quit their equipages, and be escorted by the soldiers through the mob to their respective places. Several carriages, I am told, received great damage. Mr. Jennings, whom you know, had his chariot broke to pieces, but

providentially neither he nor Mrs. Jennings, who were in it, received any hurt.

"My pass ticket would have been of no service if I had not prevailed upon one of the guards by the irresistible argument of half-a-crown, to make way for me through the mob to the hall gate, where I got admittance just as their majesties were seated at the upper end, under magnificent canopies.

"There seemed to be no small confusion in marshalling the ranks, which is not to be wondered at, considering the length of the cavalcade, and the numbers that were to walk. At length, however, every thing was regularly adjusted, and the procession began to quit the hall between eleven and twelve. The platform leading to the west door of the Abbey, was covered with blue cloth for the train to walk on; but there seemed to be a defect in not covering the upright posts that supported the awning, as it is called, which looked mean and naked, with that or some other coloured cloth. The nobility walked two by two. Being willing to see the procession pass along the platform through the streets, I hastened from the hall, and by the assistance of a soldier, made my way to my former station at the corner of Bridge-street, where the windows commanded a double view at the turning. I shall not attempt to describe the splendour and magnificence of the whole; and words must fall short of that innate joy and satisfaction which the spectators felt and expressed, especially as their majesties passed by; on whose countenance a dignity suited to their station, tempered with the most amiable complacency, was sensibly impressed. It was observable, that as their majesties and the nobility passed the corner which commanded a prospect of Westminster-bridge, they stopt short, and turned back to look at the people, whose appearance,

as they all had their hats off, and were thickly planted on the ground, which rose gradually; I can compare to nothing but a pavement of heads and faces.

"I had the misfortune not to be able to get to the Abbey time enough to see all that passed there; nor, indeed, when I got in, could I have so distinct a view as I could have wished. But our friend Harry Whitaker had the luck to be stationed in the first row of the gallery behind the seats allotted for the nobility, close to the square platform which was erected by the altar, with an ascent of three steps, for their majesties to be crowned on. You are obliged to him, therefore, for several particulars, which I could not otherwise have informed you of. The sermon, he tells me, lasted only fifteen minutes. The king was anointed on the crown of his head, his breast, and the palms of his hands. At the very instant the crown was placed on the king's head, a fellow having been placed on the top of the Abbey-dome, from whence he could look down into the chancel, with a flag which he dropt as a signal, the Park and Tower guns began to fire, the trumpets sounded, and the Abbey echoed with the repeated shouts and acclamations of the people; which, on account of the awful silence that had hitherto reigned, had a very striking effect. As there were no commoners knights of the garter, instead of caps and vestments peculiar to their order, they, being all peers, wore the robes and coronets of their respective ranks. When the queen had received the sceptre with the cross, and the ivory rod with the dove, her majesty was conducted to a magnificent throne on the left hand of his majesty.

"I cannot but lament that I was not near enough to observe their majesties performing the most serious and solemn acts of devotion; but I am told, that the reverent attention which

both paid, when (after having made their second oblations) the next ceremony was their receiving the holy communion, it brought to the mind of every one near them, the proper recollection of the consecrated place in which they were.

"An hour lost in the morning is not so easily recovered. This was the case in the present instance; for, to whatever causes it might be owing, the procession most assuredly set off too late: besides, according to what Harry observed, there were such long pauses between some of the ceremonies in the Abbey, as plainly shewed all the actors were not perfect in their parts. However it be, it is impossible to conceive the chagrin and disappointment, which the late return of the procession occasioned; it being so late, indeed, that the spectators, even in the open air, had but a very dim and gloomy view of it, while, to those who had sat patiently in Westminster-hall, waiting its return for six hours, scarce a glimpse of it appeared, as the branches were not lighted till just upon his majesty's entrance. I had flattered myself that a new scene of splendid grandeur would have been presented to us in the return of the procession from the reflection of the lights, &c., and had therefore posted back to the hall with all possible expedition: but I was greatly disappointed. The whole was confusion, irregularity, and disorder.

"However we were afterwards amply recompensed for this partial eclipse, by the bright picture which the lighting of the chandeliers presented to us. Conceive to yourself, if you can conceive what I own I am at a loss to describe, so magnificent a building as that of Westminster-hall, lighted up with near three thousand wax candles in most splendid branches, our crowned heads, and almost the whole nobility, with the prime of our gentry, most superbly arrayed and adorned with a profusion of

the most brilliant jewels, the galleries on every side crowded with company, for the most part elegantly and richly dressed;—but to conceive it in all its lustre, I am conscious that it is absolutely necessary to have been present. To proceed in my narration.—Their majesty's table was served with three courses, at the first of which earl Talbot, as steward of his majesty's household, rode up from the hall-gate to the steps leading to where their majesties sat; and on his returning the spectators were presented with an unexpected sight in his lordship's backing his horse, that he might keep his face still towards the king. A loud clapping and huzzaing consequently ensued.

“After the first course, and before the second, the king's champion, Mr. Dymocke*, who enjoys that office as being lord of the manor of Scrivelsby, in Lincolnshire, entered the hall, completely armed, in one of his majesty's best suits of white armour, mounted on a fine white horse, the same his late majesty rode at the battle of Dettingen, richly caparisoned, in the following manner:

“Two trumpets, with the champion's arms on their banners; the serjeant trumpet, with his mace on his shoulder; the champion's two esquires, richly habited, one on the right hand, with the champion's lance carried upright; the other on the left hand, with his target, and the champion's arms depicted thereon; the herald

of arms, with a paper in his hand, containing the words of the challenge.

“The earl marshal, in his robes and coronet, on horseback, with the marshal's staff in his hand; the champion on horseback, with a gauntlet in his right hand, his helmet on his head, adorned with a great plume of feathers, white, blue, and red; the lord high constable in his robes and coronet, and collar of the order on horseback, with the constable's staff.

“Four pages richly apparelled, attendants on the champion.

“The passage to their majesties' table being cleared by the knight marshal, the herald at arms, with a loud voice, proclaimed the champion's challenge, at the lower end of the hall, in the words following:

If any person, of what degree soever, high or low, shall deny or gainsay, our sovereign lord king George III., king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c. [grandson] and next heir to our sovereign lord king [George II.] the last king deceased, to be the right heir to the imperial crown of the realm of Great Britain, or that he ought not to enjoy the same; here is his champion, who saith that he lieth, and is a false traitor, being ready in person to combat with him; and in this quarrel will adventure his life against him, on what day soever shall be appointed.

“And then the champion throws down his gauntlet; which, having lain some small time, the herald took up and returned it to the champion †.

* His motto is PRO REGE DIMICO.

† In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1764, page 28, is an extract from a letter addressed to the duke of Devonshire, which contains the following singular anecdote.—“It is publicly said too, that the Young Pretender himself came from Flanders to see the Coronation, that he was in Westminster-hall during the Coronation, and in town two or three days before and after it, under the name of Mr. Brown; and being asked by a gentleman who knew him abroad, how he durst venture thither, his answer was, that he was very safe.” This relation receives additional strength from a part of a letter written by David Hume, in 1773, which is as follows:—“But what will surprise you more, lord Marshal, a few days after the Coronation of the present king, told me that he believed the Young Pretender was at that time in London, or, at least, had been so very lately, and had come over to see the shew of the coronation, and had actually seen it. I asked my lord the reason for this strange fact. ‘Why,’ says he, ‘a gentleman told me so, who saw him there, and whispered in his ear—‘Your royal highness is the last of all mortals whom I should expect to see here.’ ‘It was curiosity that led me,’ said the

"Then they advanced in the same order to the middle of the hall, where the said herald made proclamation as before: and lastly, to the foot of the steps, when the said herald, and those who preceded him, going to the top of the steps, made proclamation a third time, at the end whereof the champion cast down his gauntlet; which, after some time, being taken up, and returned to him by the herald, he made a low obeisance to his majesty: whereupon the cup-bearer, assisted as before, brought to the king a gilt bowl of wine, with a cover; his majesty drank to the champion, and sent him the said bowl by the cup-bearer, accompanied with his assistants; which the champion (having put on his gauntlet) received, and retiring a little drank thereof, and made his humble reverence to his majesty; and being accompanied as before, rode out of the hall, taking the said bowl and cover with him as his fee.

"You cannot expect that I should give you a bill of fare, or enumerate the dishes that were provided and sent from the adjacent temporary kitchens, erected in Cotton-Garden for this purpose. No less than sixty haunches of venison, with a surprising quantity of all sorts of game, were laid in for this grand feast. The king's table was covered with 120 dishes at three several times, served up by his majesty's band of pensioners; but what chiefly attracted our eyes, was their majesties' dessert, in which the confectioner had lavished all his ingenuity

in rock work and emblematical figures. The other desserts were no less admirable for their expressive devices. But I must not forget to tell you, that when the company came to be seated, the poor knights of the Bath had been overlooked, and no table provided for them. An airy apology, however, was served up to them instead of a substantial dinner: but the two junior knights, in order to preserve their rank of precedency to their successors, were placed at the head of the judges' table above all the learned brethren of the coif. The peers were placed on the outermost side of the tables, and the peeresses within, nearest to the walls. You cannot suppose that there was the greatest order imaginable observed during the dinner, but must conclude, that some of the company were as eager and impatient to satisfy the craving of their appetites, as any of your country squires at a race or assize ordinary.

"It was pleasant to see the various stratagems made use of by the company in the galleries to come in for a snack of the good things below. The ladies clubbed their handkerchiefs to be tied together to draw up a chicken, or bottle of wine. Some had been so provident as to bring baskets with them, which were let down, like the prisoners' boxes at Ludgate or the Gate-house, with a *Pray remember the poor*.

"You will think it high time that I should bring this long letter to a conclusion. Let it suffice then to acquaint you, that their majesties

other: 'but I assure you,' added he, 'that the person who is the cause of all this pomp and magnificence, is the man I envy the least!'

It has also been reported, in addition to these evidences, that when the champion cast down his gauntlet for the last time, a white glove fell from one of the spectators, who was in an elevated situation; and that on its being handed to the champion, he demanded "Who was his fair foe?" supposing that some lady had accidentally dropped it. As soon as this story became public, it was instantly connected with the young Chevalier, and the glove was said to have been thrown by him, who was present in female attire. That the latter might have been the case seems from the letters already cited, to be extremely probable, but it also appeared impossible that any one should thus hazard so much as the casting down a gage to the king's champion would bring upon them. Such was the light in which the affair was viewed at the time, and it soon passed away entirely disbelieved.

returned to St. James's a little after ten o'clock at night; but they were pleased to give time for the peeresses to go first, that they might not be incommoded by the pressure of the mob to see their majesties. After the nobility were departed, the hall doors were thrown open according to custom, when the people immediately cleared it of all the moveables, such as the victuals, cloths, plates, dishes, &c., and, in short, every thing that could stick to their fingers.

"I need not tell you, that several coronation medals, in silver, were thrown among the populace at the return of the procession. One of them was pitched into Mrs. Dixon's lap, as she sat upon a scaffold in Palace-yard. Some of gold were also thrown among the peeresses in the Abbey, just after the king was crowned; but they thought it below their dignity to stoop to pick them up.

"Our friend Harry, who was upon the scaffold, at the return of the procession, closed in with the rear; at the expense of half a guinea was admitted into the hall; got brimful of his majesty's claret; and in the universal plunder, brought off the glass her majesty drank in, which is placed in the beaufet as a valuable curiosity.

"I should not forget telling you that I am well assured the king's crown weighs almost three pounds and a half, and that the great diamond in it fell out in returning to Westminster-hall, but was immediately found and restored."

The following is an account of the several quantities of plate delivered at the coronation, according to the claims, and which are in customary quantities at other coronations:—

1. To the lord almoner, for the day, 305 ounces of gilt plate in two large gilt chased basins.

2. The gold cup and cover to the lord mayor of London, was 20 ounces of pure gold.

3. To the mayor of Oxford, a high gilt bowl and cover, richly chased, of 110 ounces, as a gift from the king to that city, with his majesty's arms engraven on it.

4. To the champion, a high bowl and cover, finely chased and gilt, of thirty-six ounces; all which bowls were enchased with his majesty's cipher.

5. To the duke of Norfolk, as chief butler of England for the day, a cup of pure gold, of thirty-two ounces.

6. To the lord great chamberlain, as chief officer of the ewry, two large gilt chased basins, and one gilt chased ewer.

His grace the archbishop of Canterbury, as his fee, according to ancient usage, receives the purple velvet chair, cushion, and footstool, whereon he sits at the coronation. The officers of the removing wardrobe also usually receive, as their fee, the pall of cloth of gold held over the king at his coronation.

The following description of the queen's crown, which was made for the consort of James II., is taken from an account of the coronation of that monarch, published by authority. The work containing it is, we believe, extremely scarce. This crown forms a part of the regalia at the Tower, and would be used at any future coronation of the queen consort:—

The queen's rich crown*, which her majesty wore on her return to Westminster-hall, was of gold, but so

* This crown was made up by Mr. Richard Beauvoir, jeweller, in which he had the honour to please their majesties in a high degree.

At the coronation a large number of silver medals were struck for the occasion and freely distributed. On one side of the king's silver medals was his bust, and these words, GEORGIVS III. D. G. M. BRIT. FR. ET HIB. REX. F. D. and on the

richly embellished with diamonds and pearl, that little or none of the gold appeared. It was an imperial crown, composed of crosses and fleurs-de-lys, with arches and a mound.

The diameter of the rim was five inches, and the height of it to the top of the cross upon the mound seven inches, and the weight only nineteen ounces ten pennyweights.

The whole rim or circle was covered with twenty-two large rose or faucet diamonds, whereof, two of them being very large, were of 2,000*l.* value each, and the other twenty of 1,500*l.* a piece, in all 34,000*l.*; and the angles between were filled up with forty-four small diamonds, value 100*l.*

The four crosses were composed of twenty-five diamonds each, amounting in all to 12,000*l.*; and on the top of the said crosses were four exceedingly large diamonds, in value 40,000*l.*

In the tops of the four fleurs-de-lys were four oval diamonds of 6,000*l.* value, and in the side leaves eight diamonds of 4,000*l.* value, and at the foot of each fleur-de-lys were eighteen smaller diamonds, amounting in all to 2,000*l.* in value. The bars, ribs, or arches, were covered with a row of large pearl up the middle, between two rows of rose diamonds, in all forty-four pearls and eighty diamonds, which, with sixteen small stones that filled up the angles of the four great diamonds, amounted to 10,000*l.*; and the mound and cross were totally covered with rose diamonds, only the fillet or band of the mound was covered with table diamonds.

Those that covered the mound or globe were in number 141, amounting to 500*l.*, and the twenty-six upon the cross came to 3,000*l.*

The two ropes of pearl, about the upper and lower edge of the rim, whereof the uppermost contained sixty-four large pearls, amounted to 300*l.*; so that the whole value was 111,900*l.* sterling.

The cap was purple velvet, lined with rich white Florence taffeta, turned up, and richly powdered with ermine.

The following is a description of the regalia used in the coronation of the king and queen of England:

1. ST. EDWARD'S CROWN, with which his majesty is crowned, so called in commemoration of the ancient crown, which was kept in the church of Westminster till the beginning of the late civil wars, when, with the rest of the regalia, it was most sacrilegiously plundered away. It is a very rich imperial crown of gold, made against the coronation of king Charles the Second, embellished with pearls and precious stones of divers kinds, *viz.*, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and sapphires, and a mound of gold on the top of it, encircled with a band or fillet of gold, embellished also with precious stones, and upon the mound a cross of gold, embellished likewise with precious stones, and three very large oval pearls, one at the top of the cross, and two others pendant at the ends of the cross. The said crown is composed (as all the imperial crowns of England are), of four crosses, and as many fleurs-de-lys, of gold, upon a rim, or circlet of gold, all embellished with precious stones, from the tops of which crosses arise four circular bars, ribs, or arches, which meet at the top in form of a cross, at the intersection whereof is a pedestal, whereon is fixed the mound before-mentioned. The cap, within the said crown, is of purple velvet, lined with white taffeta, and turned up with ermine, thick powdered in three rows.

2. The CROWN of STATE, so called, because it is worn by the king at all such times as he comes in state to the parliament-house. This was also new made against the coronation of king Charles the Second, and was worn by the king in his return to Westminster-hall: it is exceedingly rich, being embellished with divers large rose, or faucet, and table diamonds, and other precious stones, besides a great quantity of pearls; but it is most remarkable for a wonderful large ruby, set in the middle of one of the four crosses, esteemed worth ten thousand

reverse, PATRIÆ OVANTI, "To his country triumphing," with Britannia holding a crown over his head, the king sitting, and the inscription, CORON. XXII. SEPT. MDCCLXI. There were four hundred silver medals also of the queen thrown into the scaffoldings, and among the populace. On one side she is represented at half length; and in the exergue are these words, CHARLOTTA D. G. M. BR. FR. ET. HIBER. REGINA. On the other side is the device, being her majesty at full length, and over her a seraph descending with a crown, and going to place it on her head: In the exergue is, QUÆSITUM MERITIS, "By merit obtained;" and the inscription CORON. XXII. SEPT. 1761.

pounds; as, also for that the mound is one entire stone, of a sea-water green colour, known by the name of an aquamarine. The cap was also of a purple velvet, lined and turned up as the former.

3. The QUEEN'S CIRCLET of GOLD, which her majesty wears in the procession to her coronation, is a rim or circlet of gold, very richly adorned with large diamonds, curiously set, as in the draught, with a string of pearls round the upper edge thereof: the cap is purple velvet, lined with white taffeta, and turned up with ermine, richly powdered.

4. The ORB, MOUND, or GLOBE, which is put into his majesty's right hand, immediately before his being crowned, and which his majesty bears in his left hand upon his return to Westminster-hall, is a ball of gold, of six inches diameter, encompassed with a band, or fillet, of gold, embellished with roses of diamonds encircling other precious stones, viz., emeralds, rubies, and sapphires, and edged about with pearls; on the top whereof is a very large amethyst, of a violet or purple colour, near an inch and half in height, of an oval form; which, being encompassed with four silver wires, becomes the foot, or pedestal, of a very rich cross of gold, of three inches and a quarter in height, and three inches in breadth, set very thick with diamonds, having in the middle thereof, a fair sapphire on one side, and a fair emerald on the other, and embellished with four large pearls, in the angles of the cross, near the centre, and three large pearls at the ends of the said cross: the whole height of the orb and cross being eleven inches.

5. The QUEEN'S CROWN, wherewith her majesty is crowned, is a very rich imperial crown of gold, set with diamonds of great value, intermixed with a few precious stones of other kinds, and some pearls: it was composed of crosses and fleurs-de-lys, with bars, or arches, and a mound and cross on the top of the arches, after the same manner as the king's imperial crowns are, differing from them only in size, as being lesser and lighter: the cap is of purple velvet, lined with rich white taffeta, and turned up with ermine, or miniver pure, richly powdered.

6. The QUEEN'S RICH CROWN, which her majesty wears in her return to Westminster-hall, is likewise of gold, but so richly embellished with diamonds and pearls, that little or none of the gold appears: it is also

an imperial crown, composed of crosses and fleurs-de-lys, with arches and a mound, as is her majesty's other crown.

The whole value whereof, as it has been used at former coronations, has been computed at 111,900*l.* sterling. The cap is purple velvet, lined with rich white Florence taffeta, turned up, and richly powdered with ermine.

7. St. EDWARD'S STAFF, in length four feet seven inches and a half, is a staff or sceptre of gold, with a pike, or foot of steel, about four inches and a quarter in length, and a mound and cross at the top; the garnishings are also of gold, and the diameter of it is above three quarters of an inch.

8. The KING'S SCEPTRE with the DOVE, is a sceptre of gold, in length three feet seven inches, and three inches in circumference at the handle, and two inches and a quarter about at the top: the pomel garnished with a circle, or fillet, of table diamonds, and in several places precious stones of all sorts, and the mound at the top embellished with a band or fillet of rose diamonds. Upon the mound is a small Jerusalem cross, whereon is fixed a dove, with wings expanded, as the emblem of mercy.

9. The KING'S SCEPTRE, with the CROSS, or Sceptre Royal, is likewise of gold, the handle plain, and the upper part wreathed; in length two feet nine inches and a quarter, and of the same thickness as the former. The pomel at the bottom is enriched with rubies, and emeralds, and small diamonds; and the quantity of five inches and a half in length, just over the handle, is curiously embossed and embellished with sapphires, rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. The top rises into a fleur-de-lys, with six leaves, whereof three are upright, and the other three hanging down, all enriched with precious stones; and out of the said fleur-de-lys issues a mound made of an amethyst, garnished with table diamonds, and upon the mound a cross, wholly covered with precious stones, with a large table diamond in the centre.

10. The QUEEN'S SCEPTRE, with the CROSS is also gold, adorned with diamonds and other precious stones, being in length two feet ten inches, with a mound and cross at the top, issuing out of a fleur-de-lys, very like the king's in all the embellishments thereof, only smaller, and not wreathed, nor altogether so thick.

11. The QUEEN'S IVORY ROD, is a rod or sceptre of white ivory, in length three feet one inch and

a half, whereof the pomel and garniture is gold, as is also the mound and cross at the top, only the dove on the top of the cross is enamelled with white; the circumference at the bottom is about two inches, and at the top about an inch and a half.

12. **CURTANA**, or the pointless sword, representing the sword of mercy, is the principal of the swords in dignity, which are borne naked before the king, to the coronation; and is a broad bright sword, whereof the length of the blade is thirty-two inches, the breadth almost two inches, the handle, being covered with fine gold wire, is four inches long, besides the pomel an inch and three quarters, which, with the cross, is plain steel gilt, the length of the cross being almost eight inches. The scabbard belonging to it is covered with a rich brocaded cloth of tissue, with a gilt ferrule, hook, and chape.

13. The **SECOND SWORD**, or sword of justice to the spirituality, is a pointed sword, but somewhat obtuse, according to the sculpture. The length of the blade is forty inches, the breadth an inch and a half, the handle as before, (covered with gold wire), four inches long, and the pomel an inch and three-quarters deep. The length of the cross is almost eight inches, which, with the pomel, was plain steel as before: and the scabbard, in all respects, as the former.

14. The **THIRD SWORD**, or sword of justice to the temporality, is a sharp pointed sword; the length of the blade is forty inches, the breadth an inch and three-quarters; the length of the handle four inches, the pomel an inch and three-quarters, the length of the cross seven inches and a half; and the scabbard, in all respects, as the two former.

15. The **KING'S CORONATION RING**, is a plain gold ring, with a large table ruby violet, wherein a plain cross, or cross of St. George, is curiously en-chased.

16. The **QUEEN'S CORONATION RING**, is likewise gold, with a large table ruby set therein, and sixteen other small rubies round about the ring, whereof those next to the collet are the largest, the rest diminishing proportionably.

The following is an explanation of the sacred and royal habits, and other ornaments wherewith the kings and queens are invested on the day of the coronation.

The **MANTLE DELMÁTICA**, or open pall, otherwise called the imperial pall, was heretofore a rich embroidery, with golden eagles; but being in the time of the civil wars, together with all the rest of the regalia, except the ampul and spoon (all which were constantly kept in the church of Westminster), sacrilegiously plundered away, a very rich gold and purple brocaded tissue is made use of instead thereof, the ground or outside whereof is shot with gold thread, brocaded with gold and silver trails (mostly gold,) with large flowers of gold frosted, heightened with some little silver flowers, and all the trails and flowers edged about with purple, or deep mazarine blue.

The **SUPERTUNICA**, surcoat, or close pall, is a close coat with plain sleeves, of a very thick and rich cloth of gold tissue, shot with gold thread and gold flowers, brocaded and frosted, without either silk or velvet. The length behind is a yard, quarter, and half; and before a yard and quarter, having only one slit behind, a quarter and a half deep, which divides it into two skirts, each skirt being just a yard and a half, so that the whole compass at the bottom is three yards. To this belongs a belt, or girdle, made of the same cloth of tissue, lined with a white-watered tabby, with a gold buckle runner, and tab, to which hangers of the same are affixed for the king's sword, wherewith he is girded.

The **ARMILL** is made of the same cloth of tissue as the supertunica, or close pall, and lined with crimson Florence sarcenet. The length of it is about an ell, and the breadth of it three inches, with two double ribands at each end, with crimson taffeta, viz., two at the corners of the ends, to tie it below the elbows, and two a little higher, for tying it above the elbows.

The **COLOBIUM SINDONIS**, or surplice (saving that it is without sleeves), is the last garment put upon the king after the anointing; it is made of very fine white cambric, and is in length about a pail of a yard deeper than the supertunica, or close pall; it is laced about the neck, round the arm-holes, or opening of the shoulders, down the breast, up the slits of the sides, and round the bottom, with fine white Flanders lace surfiled on very full.

The **SURCOAT** of rich crimson satin, which is put upon his majesty at his first dressing in the morning, is made like the supertunica or close pall, and much about the same dimensions; the lining is crimson Florence sarcenet.

The **BUSKINS** are made of the same cloth of tissue as the *supertunica*, and lined with crimson Florence *sarcenet*; the length of them eighteen inches, the compass at the top fifteen inches, and from the heel to the toe eleven inches.

The **SANDALS** are made with a dark-coloured leathern sole; and a wooden heel, covered with red leather; the straps or *banda* (whereof two go over the foot, and the third behind the heel) are of cloth tissue, lined with crimson *taffeta*, as is also the bottom or inside of the sole. The length of the sandal is ten inches.

The **SPURS**, called the great golden spurs, are curiously wrought.

The **AMPHUL**, or eagle of gold, containing the holy oil, is in form of an eagle, with the wings expanded, standing on a pedestal, all of pure gold, finely chased. The head screws off at the middle of the neck, for the convenience of putting in the oil, and the neck being hollow to the very beak, the holy oil is poured out into the spoon through the point of the beak. The weight of the whole is about eight or ten ounces, and the cavity of the body capable of containing about six ounces.

The **ANOINTING SPOON** is likewise of pure gold, with four pearls in the broadest place of the handle, and the bowl of the spoon is finely chased both within and without, by the extreme thinness whereof it appears to be very ancient.

KING EDWARD'S CHAIR, (commonly called *St. Edward's Chair*) is a very ancient chair of solid hard wood, with back and sides of the same, variously painted, in which the kings of Scotland were heretofore constantly crowned; but being brought out of that kingdom by the victorious prince, king Edward I., in the 24th year of his reign, anno 1296, after he had totally overcome John Baliol, king of Scots, it hath ever since remained in the Abbey of Westminster, and has been the royal chair in which the succeeding kings and queens of this realm have been inaugurated. It is in height six feet seven inches, in breadth at the bottom thirty-eight inches, and in depth twenty-four inches; from the seat to the bottom is twenty-five inches, the breadth of the seat within the sides is twenty-eight inches, and the depth eighteen inches. At nine inches from the ground there is a bottom-board, supported at the four corners by four lions, and between the seat and the said bottom-board is enclosed a stone,

commonly called *Jacob's Stone*, or the *Fatal Marble Stone*, being an oblong square, about twenty-two inches long, thirteen inches broad, and eleven inches deep, of a bluish steel-like colour, mixed with some veins of red; whereof history relates, that it is the stone whereon the patriarch Jacob is said to have laid his head, in the plain of *Luza*; that it was brought to *Brigantia*, in the kingdom of *Galicia* in Spain, in which place *Gathol*, king of Scots, sat on it, as his throne: thence it was brought into Ireland by *Simon Breach*, first king of Scots, about 700 years before Christ's time, and from thence into Scotland, by king *Fergus*, about 330 years before Christ; and in anno 859, was placed in the Abbey of *Scone*, in the sheriffdom of *Perth*, by king *Kenneth*, who caused it to be enclosed in this wooden chair, and this prophetic distich to be engraved:

*Ni fallat Fatum, Scoti hunc quocunque locatum
Invenient lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem.*

If Fate go right, where'er this stone is found,
The Scots shall Monarchs of that realm be crown'd.

Which is the more remarkable, by being fulfilled in the person of king *James the First*, grandfather to the late most excellent princess *Sophia*, electress dowager of *Hanover*, grandmother of his late majesty king *George II.*

This antique regal chair having, together with the golden sceptre and crown of Scotland, been solemnly offered by the fore-mentioned king *Edward the First* to *St. Edward the Confessor* anno 1297. (from whence it hath the name of *St. Edward's chair*), has ever since been kept in *St. Edward the Confessor's Chapel*, with a tablet hanging thereto, wherein are written, in the old English letter, these verses:

*Si quid habent veri, vel Chronica, tanta fidesse,
Clanditur hac Cathedra nobilis ecce Lapis.
Ad Caput eximius Jacob quondam Patriarcha
Quem posuit cernens numina mira Poli.
Quem tulit ex Scottis spolians quasi Victor honoris
Edwardus Primus. Mars velut Armipotens.
Scotorum Dominor. Noster Valdivissimus Pector,
Anglorum Decus, et Gloria Militiar.*

It must be evident, that an occurrence of so august and imposing a nature as a coronation must have given rise to many anecdotes and *jeux d'esprit*, some of which have been preserved in the periodical publications of that interesting period; but amongst the writers who distinguished themselves on this occasion, Horace Walpole has rendered himself the most conspicuous by the levity and freedom with which he enters into a detail of some of the leading circumstances. In a letter to the honourable Henry Seymour Conway, he says—"The coronation is over, 'tis even a more gorgeous sight than I imagined; I saw the procession and the Hall, but the return was in the dark. In the morning they had forgot the sword of state, the chairs for the king and queen, and their canopies. They used the lord mayor's sword for the first, and made the last in the hall; so they did not set forth till noon, and then by a childish compliment to the king, reserved the illumination of the hall till his entry, by which means, they arrived like a funeral, nothing being discernible but the plumes of the knights of the Bath, which seemed the hearse. Of all the incidents of the day, the most diverting was what happened to the queen. She had a retiring chamber, with *all* conveniencies prepared behind the altar. She went thither: in the most convenient what found she but the duke of Newcastle." In another letter, he says of the queen, that she was much pleased with the opera a few nights afterwards, and declared she would go once a week; and he observes, that the crowds at the opera and play, whenever the royal pair went there, were greater than he ever remembered. In another letter he says—"Some of the peeresses were dressed over night, slept in arm-chairs, and were waked if they tumbled their head-dresses. I carried my lady Townshend, lady Hertford,

lady Anne Conolly, my lady Hervey, and Mrs. Clive, to my deputy's house, at the gate of Westminster-hall. My lady Townshend said she should be very glad to see a coronation, as she never had seen one. "Why," said I, "madam, you walked in the last." "Yes, child," said she, "but I saw nothing of it, I only looked to see who looked at me."

It has been already mentioned, that earl Talbot brought up the first course. In Horace Walpole's letters to Mr. Montague, he says, "The earl piqued himself on backing his horse down the hall, and not turning its rump towards the king; but he had taken such pains to dress it to that duty, that it entered backwards, and at his retreat the spectators clapped—a terrible indecorum, but suitable to such Bartholomew-fair doings. He had twenty *demeles*, but come out of none creditably. He had taken away the table of the knights of the Bath, and was forced to admit two in their old place, and dine the others in the court of requests. Sir William Stanhope said—'We are ill treated, for *some of us* are gentlemen.' Beckford told the earl it was hard to refuse a table to the city of London, whom it would cost ten thousand pounds to banquet the king, and that his lordship would repent it if they had not a table in the hall; upon which they had one. To the barons of the Cinque Ports, who made the same complaint, he said—'If you come to me as lord Steward, I tell you it is impossible; if as lord Talbot, I am a match for any of you.'"

In another letter, he says—"The multitudes, balconies, guards, and processions, made Palace-yard the liveliest spectacle in the world. The hall was the most glorious. The blaze of lights, the richness and variety of habits, the ceremonial, the benches of peers and peeresses, frequent and full, was as awful as a pageant

can be; and yet, for the king's sake and my own, I never wish to see another; nor am I impatient to have my lord Effingham's promise fulfilled. The king complained that so few precedents were kept for their proceedings. Lord Effingham owned the earl marshal's office had been strangely neglected; but he had taken such care for the future, that *the next coronation* would be regulated in the most exact manner imaginable."

To the countess of Aylesbury he writes in a still more pleasant strain. "My heraldry was much more offended at the coronation with the ladies that did walk than with those that walked out of their place; yet I was not so *perilously* angry as my lady Cowper, who refused to set on foot with my lady M——; and when she was at last obliged to associate with her, set out on a round trot, as if she designed to prove the antiquity of her family by marching as lustily as a maid of honour of queen Gwinevir. It was in truth a brave sight. The sea of heads in Palace-yard, the guards, horse and foot, the scaffolds, balconies, and procession, exceeded imagination. The hall, when once illuminated, was noble, but they suffered the whole parade of it to return into it in the dark, that his majesty might be surprised with the quickness with which the sconces caught fire. The champion acted well; the other paladins had neither the grace nor alertness of Rinaldo; lord Effingham and the duke of Bedford were but untoward knights-errant, and lord Talbot had not much more dignity than the figure of general Monk in the Abbey. The habit of peers is unbecoming to the last degree, but the peeresses made amends for all defects. Your daughter Richmond, lady Kildare, and lady Pembroke were as handsome as the Graces. Lady Rochford, lady Holderness, and lady Lytleton looked exceedingly well in their day;

and for those of the days before, the duchess of Queensberry, lady Westmorland, and lady Albe-marle were surprising. Lady Harrington was noble at a distance, and so covered with diamonds, that you would have thought she had bid somebody or other, like Falstaff, 'rob me the exchequer.' Lady Northampton was very magnificent too, and looked prettier than I have seen her of late. Lady Spencer and lady Bolingbroke were not the worst figures there. The duchess of Ancaster marched alone after the queen with much majesty, and there were two new Scotch peeresses that pleased every body, lady Sutherland and lady Dunmore. *Per contra*, were lady P., who had put a wig on, and old E., who had scratched hers off. The dowager E. and a lady S., with her tresses coal-black and her hair coal-white. Well, it was all delightful, but not half so charming as its being over!"

Amongst other anecdotes connected with this important event, it has been noticed of archbishop Secker, that he had the honour of baptizing his majesty, confirming him when prince of Wales, marrying him at St. James's, and crowning him at Westminster; besides which, he christened his present majesty, the duke of York and some others of the royal family, a series of honourable circumstances which cannot find a parallel in the history of any other archbishop.

It being our particular wish to record every public document which was issued on this important occasion, we subjoin the following Order of Council, relative to the orders which were to be observed at the coronation, and the official instructions which were issued by the duke of Ancaster, lord great chamberlain, concerning the attendance of those who had tickets for Westminster-hall, and for regulating the order of their admission.

In pursuance of an Order of Council.

These are to give notice, that it is ordered that all the peers that do go in the proceeding, are to meet in the house of lords, and all the peeresses at the painted-chamber in Westminster, in their robes and with their coronets, by eight of the clock precisely, on Tuesday morning next: and all others appointed to go in the said proceeding (except those who are immediately to attend near their majesties' persons) are to meet in the court of requests exactly at the same hour, in their respective habits usual on such occasions.

That privy-councillors who are commoners, do not wear their hats in the procession, but may put them on at dinner in Westminster-hall.

That the military officers keep their posts and not come into the choir, that the gentlemen pensioners do stand at the foot of the steps ascending to the theatre, and come no further, and that the yeomen of the guard do stand between the gentlemen pensioners and the choir door: that all persons take their places to which the officers of arms shall conduct them, and that they continue in their respective places during the whole ceremony. That no person whose name is not contained in the ceremonial, shall presume to attend, or walk in the procession.

That a way is ordered to be made for coaches to pass through Parliament-street, cross the New and Old Palace-yards, which coaches, as soon as discharged, are to proceed on directly to Milbank, and from thence to Hyde-park-corner, without making any stop, and none but the coaches of peers, peeresses, and others who attend the solemnity, are to pass that way after seven of the clock that morning, nor any whatever after nine; and in the evening the coaches are to return the same way; but no coaches will be permitted to pass back any of those ways, till after their majesties' return to St. James's.

That after the peers, peeresses, and others, are set down,

the servants of such peers and persons, are to be dismissed, and immediately pass on the same way with the coaches to which they belong.

That particular care be taken that no coaches nor carts be suffered to hinder or interrupt the said lords' coaches, and that no carriages whatever be suffered to pass over Westminster-bridge on the day of their majesties' coronation, except the coach of his grace the archbishop of Canterbury*.

A passage will be open for chairs to pass to the north door of the abbey, through King's-street, Charles-street, Delahay-street, to Dean-street, otherwise Little George-street, and through Westminster-market, and are to return as soon as they have set down their fare, immediately another way, to Angel-court and Great-George-street.

And whereas his majesty hath commanded that care be taken that the church and choir of Westminster-abbey be kept free for their majesties' proceeding, no person whatsoever is to be admitted within the door of the choir, (but such as shall produce tickets signed and marked with my name and seal,) till the entrance of their majesties' proceeding.—And persons who shall have such tickets, are to come in at the north or south-east doors of the abbey†.

And further, to warn all persons concerned, that none shall be admitted into any of the galleries in the abbey, (without the choir,) after seven of the clock on Tuesday morning next.

And it is also ordered, that no person whatever who shall be present at the said coronation, (either attending the proceeding, or as spectators,) do appear in mourning habits on that day.

EFFINGHAM, M.

17th September, 1761.

The duke of Ancaster's instructions were to the following effect:

* The ferry at Lambeth formerly belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury, as lords of the manor: but the profits were usually granted by patent, to some officer of the archiepiscopal household, a certain annual rent being reserved. After the building of Westminster-bridge, in 1750, the ferry was taken away, and an equivalent given to the see of Canterbury, as well as to the patentee, for their interest; the privilege, therefore, mentioned in the earl marshal's orders, seems to have arisen out of, and to be a recognition of, the archbishop's right of ferry. It may not be uninteresting to mention in this place, that, previous to the building of Westminster-bridge, the bishops used commonly to go by water to the house of lords, from their several palaces in Southwark, the Strand, and Lambeth, landing at Parliament-stairs. They were rowed in their state barges, by their own protected watermen, in liveries of purple turned up with white. Archbishop Wake, who filled the see from 1715 to 1737, was the last prelate who displayed his aquatic pageantry.

† These doors were opened at four o'clock.

All those, who have tickets for the peers' gallery in Westminster-hall, are desired to quit their coaches at the opening that is left in the procession platform at the bottom of Parliament-street, from thence to walk along the platform to the great north-door of Westminster-hall, facing New Palace-Yard. Their coaches will proceed as has been directed by the earl marshal.

The chairs that are intended for the north-door of Westminster-hall, facing New Palace-Yard, are to come down the east-side of Parliament-street, next to Privy-gardens, and to turn immediately on the left-hand in New-Palace-Yard, from thence proceed to a bar in the platform which conveys them to the hall-door. Those chairs to go back through Channel-row and Privy-gardens, and not to return till the hours appointed by the earl marshal.

The chairs that are intended for that entrance in Old-Palace-Yard, which leads to the house of peers, the court of requests, painted-chamber, &c., are to come down the east-side of Parliament-street next to Privy-Gardens, and to continue the line (at a place) made over the platform to the east-side of St. Margaret's-street and Old-Palace-Yard; and when discharged to cross the platform in Old-Palace-Yard, and go off through Abingdon-street, and the different avenues from the same, and not to return till the hours appointed by the earl marshal.

The coaches that are intended for that entrance in Old-Palace-Yard, which leads to the house of peers, court of requests, painted-chamber, &c., are to set down at the opening that is left in the platform which crosses Old-Palace-Yard, and then to proceed as has been directed by the earl marshal.

The tickets for the boxes of Great officers, and peers' daughters, will be admitted at the entrance of the house of peers, in Old-Palace-Yard, if they think that the most convenient access to the hall.

The hall-doors will be opened as soon as it is daylight, on Tuesday morning; and for the greater convenience of having a proper access to the scaffold in the hall, it is requested that the ladies will not appear in hoops.

ANCASTER, G. C.

Berkley Square,
September 20th.

From scenes of pomp and splendour, the novelty and importance of which had excited

such an unusual degree of interest in the country, we return to a short analysis of those leading political events which distinguished his late majesty's reign, and which, at this particular period, threw such a sombre hue over the fair prospects of his domestic life. France was at this time reduced to the lowest ebb of distress and despondency. All her colonies were in the hands of Great Britain. Her arms had been discomfited in every quarter. The payment of her public bills was stopped, and she might literally be called a bankrupt nation. She was reduced to a more humble and distressed condition in the three years' administration of Mr. Pitt, than by the whole ten years' war of the duke of Marlborough. An Englishman might at this period with some propriety ask, where were now her 450,000 fighting men which her ministers boasted of in the reign of Louis XIV.; and where were her sailors, who, in the same reign, fought on board one hundred ships of war? It might be answered, that we had thousands of sailors in prison, and that her number of land forces was sufficient for her purpose. But it is well known, that so reduced was her navy before November, 1759, she was obliged to force her peasants into that service. The dregs of the people, and the lower artificers were swept away by the recruiting-serjeant, and the fields were in a manner abandoned. Whoever travelled through France at that juncture might see the women not only drive but hold the plough; and in some provinces it was no uncommon spectacle to behold two women yoked with one cow, drawing the plough. Her navy was literally ruined; she had not at this time ten ships of the line fit for service, yet with these her ministers resolved to make one more effort. Their design was to obtain a share of the fishery in the North American seas, at a cheaper rate than

they could hope to gain it by treaty. From a circumstance that happened during the late negotiation, Mr. Pitt foresaw that they would make this attempt. His diligence and penetration were uniform and constant, and they were not less apparent on this than they had been on every former occasion. Mr. Bussy returned to Paris on the 25th of September, and immediately on his departure Mr. Pitt proposed to send four ships of the line to Newfoundland, but to his great surprise, he was opposed in this measure. The cabinet put a negative upon his proposition, the consequence of which was, that the French took Newfoundland; but as soon as lord Amherst, who was at New-York, heard of it, he sent his brother and lord Colville to retake the island, which they accomplished before the arrival of any orders from England. Mr. Pitt now saw and felt the strength of the king's party. He did not, however, resign upon this check, because his grand object was Spain. His design was, by an early and vigorous exertion, to cripple that power; but at the same time, he did not suspect the house of Bourbon to have so many friends in England as he afterwards found. The king of Spain had, at this time, an immense treasure at sea, coming from America, but he was sensible that the king of Spain would not declare himself until that treasure had arrived. Mr. Pitt's design was to intercept it, and to bring it to England. He was confident of the hostile intentions of Spain, and the plan of union which had been negotiating between the courts of France and Spain, during the summer, at Paris, was now completed, and Mr. Pitt had been furnished with a copy of this treaty of alliance, which included all the branches of the house of Bourbon, and which is well known by the name of the family compact. Mr. Pitt communicated to the cabinet his intention of attacking Spain, but

lord Bute was the first person who opposed it, and designated it by the epithets of rash and unadvisable. Lord Granville thought it precipitate, and desired time to consider of it. Lord Temple supported Mr. Pitt, which he had done uniformly from his coming into office. The duke of Newcastle was neuter. The chancellor was absent. Lord Temple and Mr. Pitt, submitted to the king their advice in writing signed by themselves, to recall lord Bristol, the British ambassador, from Madrid. This took place on the 18th of September, 1761.

A few days afterwards a second cabinet was summoned upon the same subject, at which all the cabinet ministers were present. Mr. Pitt asserted that he did not ground his resolution of attacking Spain upon what the court of Spain had said or might say, but upon what that court had *actually done*. The majority said they were not yet convinced of the necessity or propriety of his measure, and the cabinet broke up without coming to any resolution. In a few days more a third cabinet was summoned upon this subject. Mr. Pitt and lord Temple insisted upon the necessity of recalling lord Bristol. Every other member of the cabinet now declared against the measure, upon which Mr. Pitt and lord Temple took their leave. Lord Granville, the lord president, regretted that they were going to lose Mr. Pitt and his noble relative. He spoke highly of Mr. Pitt's penetration and integrity, but on this occasion he thought him mistaken, for the best accounts from Spain justified a contrary opinion. His majesty having rejected the written advice of Mr. Pitt and lord Temple, they resigned on the 5th of October, 1761.

These violent party conflicts demanded from the king the exercise of the strongest forbearance, as well as the greatest address; and on the resignation of Mr. Pitt, his majesty dis-

played at once the firmness and benevolence of his nature; he expressed his concern at the loss of so able a minister, and to shew the favourable sense he entertained of his services, he made him an unlimited offer of any rewards in the power of the crown to bestow; at the same time avowing himself satisfied with the opinion which the majority of the council had pronounced against that of Mr. Pitt. The great minister was overpowered by the nobleness of this proceeding. "I confess, sire," he said, "I had but too much reason to expect your majesty's displeasure. I did not come prepared for this exceeding goodness; pardon me, sire, it overpowers, it oppresses me—" He burst into tears.

We are far from an attempt to add any coloring to so exquisitely affecting a picture. We are, indeed, far from being able to do justice to perhaps one of the most pathetic and elevated scenes which could possibly be displayed—the parting of such a prince and such a minister. The conduct of his majesty, on this occasion, stands in need of no comment; it was grounded upon the firmest principles of integrity and honour, and which must raise the highest veneration for his royal character, not only amongst his own subjects, but amongst all nations, when they behold a power which has so little to fear from any human effort, so very fearful of the least infringement of the strictest and most critical rules of justice. Mr. Pitt's resignation seemed equal to a revolution in the state. An universal alarm was spread; a thousand rumours flew abroad, and the first suggestions were, that this great minister, endeavouring to avail himself by his firmness in negotiation of the advantages he had acquired by his vigour in war, was opposed by the whole council, was resolved to have a peace at any rate, and that this opposition had driven

him to resign the seals. But the true cause of the resignation soon came out, and on this point a violent conflict ensued, in which the popular cause was worse sustained, and the ministerial with greater effect, than is usual in such discussions.

In the mean time his majesty was exposed to all the influence of party rage, but it was in some degree alleviated by rather a skilful manœuvre, which reflects some credit on the minister of the day. The cause of Mr. Pitt's resignation having been in some degree suspected, on the day following his interview with the king, it became necessary to throw a degree of blame on the measures of the ex-minister, and for that reason, on the 10th of October, 1761, the two following articles appeared in the Gazette.

Madrid, September 4.—A report having been lately spread here, upon the arrival of our late letters from France, as if there was reason to apprehend an immediate rupture between our court, and that of Great Britain; we [who were meant by this pronoun?] understand, that the Spanish ministers, in a conversation which they had lately with the earl of Bristol, ambassador extraordinary from his Britannic majesty, expressed their concern thereat, and declared very explicitly to his excellency, that on the part of their court, there was not the least ground for any such apprehensions, as the Catholic king had, at no time been more intent upon cultivating a good correspondence with England, than in the present conjuncture; and at the same time, informed the earl of Bristol, that orders had been sent to Monsiuer Manso, governor of San Roque, to reprimand such of the inhabitants under his jurisdiction, as had encouraged the illegal protection given to the French privateer row-boats, under the cannon of a Spanish fort.

St. James's, October 9.—The right honourable William Pitt, having resigned the seals into the king's hands, his majesty was this day pleased to appoint the earl of Egremont, to be one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state. And in consideration of the great and im-

portant services of the said Mr. Pitt, his majesty has been graciously pleased to direct, that a warrant be prepared for granting to the lady Hester Pitt, his wife, a barony of Great Britain, by the name, style, and title, of baroness of Chatham, to herself, and of baron of Chatham to her heirs male; and also to confer upon the said William Pitt, esq., an annuity of three thousand pounds sterling, during his own life, and that of lady Hester Pitt, and their son John Pitt, esq.

The first of the preceding articles gave the people to understand the true motive of the resignation; the insufficiency of that motive, and the graciousness of the king, notwithstanding the abrupt departure of his minister. Indeed the character of his majesty rose in the opinion of the people, for the arguments adduced in support of the line of conduct which he had pursued, were urged with such irresistible force by means of writers hired for the purpose, that Mr. Pitt began to appear in the eyes of some as a delinquent, and actually as a defaulter towards his sovereign; for if, after the statement which had been officially made, Mr. Pitt chose to enter into opposition, he must go into it loaded and oppressed with the imputation of the blackest ingratitude; if, on the other hand, he should retire from business, or should concur in support of that administration which he had left, because he disproved its measures, his acquiescence would be attributed by the multitude to a bargain for his forsaking the public, and that the title and his pension were the considerations.

These were the barriers that were opposed against that torrent of popular rage, which it was apprehended would proceed from the resignation, and in truth, they answered their end perfectly; the torrent which bore so hard upon his majesty for some time, was thus beaten back, and almost diverted into an opposite course; and when afterwards it returned to

those objects, against which it was originally directed, and where it was most dreaded, it was no longer that impetuous and irresistible tide, which in the year 1767 had borne down every thing before it—it was weakened, divided, and ineffective.

At a private interview which his majesty granted to Lord Temple, the latter nobleman used every argument which his deep political knowledge could supply, in order to induce his majesty to follow the councils of Mr. Pitt; but the manner in which his majesty answered his lordship, throws an additional lustre upon his royal character.

“Can you find it recorded,” said his majesty, “that a sovereign has been censured for listening to the whole body of his council, in preference to the particular opinions of a single man? On the contrary, this uncontrolled sway of a single minister has been often thought dangerous, and was always odious in our free constitution, and is the more justly to be disliked, as perhaps inconsistent with the true spirit either of absolute monarchy, or of a limited government. I acknowledge the merit, the virtues, and the greatness of Mr. Pitt; but shall his master therefore be forced to receive him on any terms? Must his prince, to gratify his ambitious views, or, if you please, his virtuous intentions, dismiss his whole council, and annihilate his prerogative as a king, his reason and judgment as a man. Mr. Pitt has had the treasures and the forces of the nation at his most absolute command; let him in his turn do that justice which has been done to him; let him, if the favour of the crown, constitute no obligation, be bound at least by the rules of equity; and if he will not partake in the conduct of the present most intricate and difficult business of administration, let him not render it still more intricate and more difficult by his opposition.”

This firm and decided tone of his majesty annihilated every hope which the Pitt party had entertained of effecting a change in the opinion of the king; and it must be acknowledged that the Bute party did not carry their triumph with that moderation and modesty, which would have so well become them. They descended to the most violent and scurrilous abuse. The whole life of Mr. Pitt, public and private, was scrutinized with the utmost malignity, to furnish matter of calumny against him. The successes of his administration were depreciated; his faults were extravagantly exaggerated; and the rewards and honours so justly conferred upon him by his sovereign were, by every trick, ridicule, and buffoonery, converted into matter of degradation and disgrace*.

The distracted state of his majesty's councils at this momentous period did not, however, prevent him from paying every possible attention to the promotion of the arts and sciences of the country, and to the support of literary merit. His majesty had always evinced particular regard for Thomson, the author of *The Seasons*; and the distressed state of his family, after his decease, having been represented to him, his majesty graciously put his name at the head of a subscription for printing the entire works of the poet, the whole profits of which were to be applied to the erection of a monument to his memory, and to the relief of his distressed relations.

His majesty, in the very early period of his reign, always testified the most anxious disposition to encourage the manufactures of the country; and his nuptials having introduced the use of Mechlin lace, in compliment to her ma-

jesty, to the great injury of the Buckinghamshire lace-manufacturer, Earl Temple, as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Buckingham, was requested by Richard Lowndes, esq., one of the knights of the shire, on behalf of the lace-manufacturers, to present to the king a pair of ruffles, made at the manufactory of Messrs. Milward and Co., of Newport Pagnel. Earl Temple presented them accordingly, and his majesty, after looking at them, and asking many questions concerning this branch of trade, was most graciously pleased to express himself, that the inclination of his own heart naturally led him to set a high value upon every endeavour to improve any English manufactures, and whatever had such recommendation would be preferred by him to works possibly of higher perfection made in any other country.

On the 3d of November the new parliament met, and his majesty went with the usual state to the house of lords, when being seated on the throne, and the house of common in attendance, his majesty signified his pleasure to them by the lord high chancellor, that they should return to their house, and having chosen a Speaker present him on the following Friday. They returned accordingly, and unanimously chose sir John Cust, bart., member for Grantham, in Lincolnshire.

On the 6th his majesty went with the usual state to the house of lords, and the commons being sent for, they presented their speaker, sir John Cust, whom his majesty approved. His majesty then delivered the following gracious speech from the throne:

My lords and gentlemen,

At the opening of the first parliament, summoned and

* On the news of Mr. Pitt's resignation reaching Rome, Cardinal Stoppano observed to an English gentleman at the Vatican, that he could not give credit to it. For "what heir," said he, "in coming to a considerable estate, and finding it excellently well managed by a steward, would dismiss that steward merely because he had served his predecessor."

elected under my authority, I with pleasure take notice of an event, which has made me completely happy, and given universal joy to my loving subjects. My marriage with a princess, eminently distinguished by every virtue, and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdoms; which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life.

It has been my earnest wish that this first period of my reign might be marked with another felicity; the restoring of the blessings of peace to my people, and putting an end to the calamities of war, under which so great a part of Europe suffers. But though overtures were made to me, and my good brother and ally the king of Prussia, by the several belligerent powers, in order to a general pacification, for which purpose a congress was appointed; and propositions were made to me by France, for a particular peace with that crown, which were followed by an actual negotiation; yet that congress hath not hitherto taken place, and the negotiation with France is entirely broken off.

The sincerity of my disposition to effectuate this good work has been manifested in the progress of it; and I have the consolation to reflect, that the continuance of the war, and the farther effusion of Christian blood, to which it was the desire of my heart to put a stop, cannot with justice be imputed to me.

Our military operations have been in no degree suspended or delayed; and it has pleased God to grant us farther important successes, by the conquest of the islands of Belleisle and Dominica; and by the reduction of Pondicherry, which hath in a manner annihilated the French power in the East-Indies. In other parts, where the enemy's numbers were greatly superior, their principal designs and projects have been generally disappointed, by a conduct which does the highest honour to the distinguished capacity of my general prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and by the valour of my troops. The magnanimity and ability of the king of Prussia have eminently appeared in resisting such numerous armies, and surmounting so great difficulties.

In this situation, I am glad to have an opportunity of receiving the truest information of the sense of my people, by a new choice of their representatives. I am fully persuaded you will agree with me in opinion, that the

steady exertion of our most vigorous efforts, in every part where the enemy may still be attacked with advantage, is the only means that can be productive of such a peace, as may with reason be expected from our successes. It is therefore my fixed resolution, with your concurrence and support, to carry on the war, in the most effectual manner, for the interest and advantage of my kingdoms; and to maintain, to the utmost of my power, the good faith and honour of my crown, by adhering firmly to the engagements entered into with my allies. In this I will persevere, until my enemies, moved by their own losses and distresses, and touched with the miseries of so many nations, shall yield to the equitable conditions of an honourable peace; in which case, as well as in the prosecution of the war, I do assure you, no consideration whatever shall make me depart from the true interests of these my kingdoms, and the honour and dignity of my crown.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I am heartily sorry, that the necessity of large supplies appears so clearly from what has already been mentioned. The proper estimates for the services of the ensuing year shall be laid before you; and I desire you to grant me such supplies, as may enable me to prosecute the war with vigour, and as your own welfare and security, in the present critical conjuncture, require, that we may happily put the last hand to this great work. Whatsoever you give shall be duly and faithfully applied.

I dare say your affectionate regard for me and the queen makes you go before me in what I am next to mention; the making an adequate and honourable provision for her support, in case she should survive me. This is what not only her royal dignity, but her own merit calls for; and I earnestly recommend it to your consideration.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have such a confidence in the zeal and good affections of this parliament, that I think it quite superfluous to use any exhortations to excite you to a right conduct. I will only add, that there never was a situation in which unanimity, firmness, and dispatch were more necessary for the safety, honour, and true interest of Great Britain.

On the 17th of November, the following address was presented to his majesty, by the House of Lords:—

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, in parliament assembled, beg leave to return your majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is impossible to approach your royal presence at this time, without making our first offering to your majesty, of our most joyful congratulations on the auspicious occasion of your royal nuptials. We want words to describe how warmly we are affected with an event so highly interesting to your majesty, and to all your faithful subjects; or to express our gratitude to your majesty for giving us a queen, who, whilst she completes your happiness, promises, by every virtue and amiable accomplishment, the greatest addition to that of your people. May heaven grant the longest duration to this felicity, and may it be attended with a numerous progeny, to transmit the great examples of their illustrious parents, and perpetuate the blessings of your reign to future ages.

We thankfully acknowledge your majesty's goodness in communicating to us that overtures had been made by the several belligerent powers, in order to a general pacification; and by France, for a particular peace between your majesty and that crown, whereupon a negotiation had followed, which is since entirely broke off. No other proof could be wanting to us, that the continuance of the war, and the effusion of Christian blood, cannot, with any shadow of justice, be imputed to your majesty, besides the known generosity and benevolence of your innate disposition.

Your royal wisdom has appeared in nothing more, than in not suffering your military operations to be suspended or delayed: and we beg leave to congratulate your majesty on the present signal successes of your arms. Besides the important conquests with which they have been blessed, your enemies have, in other parts, been made once more to feel, that superior numbers cannot avail them against the superior capacity and conduct of your consummate general prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and the unshaken bravery of your officers and troops. We cannot see without admiration, those repeated proofs of magnanimity and ability, which your great ally the king of Prussia, though surrounded with so many difficulties, has given to the world.

Your majesty's sentiments cannot fail to have the

greatest weight with us, because we are sure that they proceed upon wise principles, founded in the love of your people. It is therefore from conviction, that we declare our humble concurrence in your opinion, that it is necessary steadily to exert our most vigorous efforts in every part, where the enemy may still be attacked with advantage.

We beg your majesty to accept the strongest and most affectionate assurances, that we will, with the greatest zeal and ardour, and at the hazard of every thing that is dear to us, stand by and support your majesty in prosecuting the war in the most effectual manner, for the interest of your kingdoms, and in performing, to the utmost of your power, your engagements to your allies; nothing being more evident than that this is the only method to procure such equitable and honourable conditions of peace, as may, with reason, be expected from our successes.

We should be greatly wanting to ourselves as well as to your majesty, if we did not testify our particular thanks for your paternal goodness, in having so expressly declared, that both in carrying on the war, and in making peace, no consideration whatsoever shall make you depart from the true interests of these your kingdoms, and the honour of your crown.

This resolution, so truly worthy of a British monarch, and so engaging to all your loyal subjects, calls for adequate returns on our part. Penetrated with the liveliest sense of your unbounded tenderness and concern for our welfare, we do from the bottom of our hearts, assure your majesty, that we will, with the utmost duty and zeal, correspond to that confidence which your majesty reposes in us, being fully persuaded of the necessity of unanimity, firmness, and dispatch, in the present critical situation; and animated thereto by the gracious admonition of the best of kings.

His majesty's most gracious answer:

My lords,

I thank you for this very dutiful and loyal address. The joy which you express upon my marriage, and your affectionate regard for the queen, give me the highest satisfaction. I make no doubt but your ready concurrence in my sentiments, and the becoming zeal which you have so unanimously declared for carrying on the war

with vigour, will have a good effect both upon our friends and enemies, and strengthen my hands, to pursue such measures as may be most conducive to the true interests of my kingdoms.

The bustle, the novelty, and the fatigue of the coronation had scarcely subsided, when the public attention was again directed to a pageant not much less gorgeous and interesting, and combining in itself particular circumstances, which, from the relative situation of the parties, were accompanied with a degree of importance scarcely to be exceeded by any royal exhibition.

It has been the invariable custom of the city of London to testify their loyalty to their new king, by inviting him to partake of the festivities of the first lord mayor's day after his accession to the throne, and on this occasion the invitation was accepted not only by their majesties, but by all the branches of the royal family.

The extraordinary circumstance of a formal visit of their majesties to the city, naturally called into action all the opulence, the splendor, and the dignity of the corporation of London; and, if the nobility west of Temple-Bar had vied with each in the magnificence and costliness of their dresses, the not less beautiful females at the east set invention upon the rack to do every possible honour to so momentous an occasion. The periodical publications of the day had ample materials furnished them wherewith to satisfy the curiosity of those, who by their station were not permitted to have an ocular view of the splendid procession, and other attendant ceremonies; and, it is to them we are indebted for the following interesting detail of some of the leading circumstances.

Immediately as it was known that their majesties had accepted the invitation, a committee was appointed to conduct the business,

and the following is their report. Some of the articles at the king's table cannot fail to afford a little amusement; and, although *three fine fat livers*, at 10s. 6d. each, perhaps of a fine fat bullock, may be with propriety denominated a substantial dish, it cannot be called in the words of the old song, "A dainty dish to set before a king."

The report from the committee appointed to provide an entertainment on last lord mayor's day for the king, which was presented to the court of lord mayor, aldermen, and common council.

To the right honourable the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common council assembled.

We your committee, appointed by your order of the third day of October last, to manage the entertainment for their majesties at the Guildhall of this city, on the then ensuing lord mayor's day, beg leave to report, that, duly sensible of the great honour done us in this appointment, we cheerfully devoted our time and utmost endeavours to prepare and regulate the said entertainment, so as best to answer the intention of this honourable court.

In the preparations for the intended feast, your committee omitted no expense that might serve to improve its splendor, elegance, or accommodations; whilst on the other hand, they retrenched every charge that was not calculated to that end, however warranted by former precedents. Their majesties having expressed their royal inclinations to see the procession of the lord mayor to Guildhall, the committee obtained Mr. Barclay's house in Cheapside, for that purpose, where proper refreshments were provided, and every care taken to accommodate their majesties with a full view of the whole cavalcade.

The great hall and adjoining apartments were decorated and furnished with as much taste and magnificence as the shortness of the time for preparation, and the nature of a temporary service, would permit: the hustings where their majesties dined, and the new council chamber, to which they retired, both before and after dinner, being spread with Turkey carpets, and the rest of the floors

over which their majesties were to pass, with blue cloth, and the whole illuminated with near three thousand wax tapers, in chandeliers, lustres, girandoles, and sconces.

A select band of music, consisting of fifty of the best hands, placed in a superb gallery, erected on purpose at the lower end of the hall, entertained their majesties with a concert during the time of dinner, under the direction of a gentleman justly celebrated for his great musical talents; whilst four other galleries (all covered with crimson, and ornamented with festoons) exhibited to their majesties a most brilliant appearance of five hundred of the principal citizens of both sexes.

Their majesties table was served with a new set of rich plate, purchased on this occasion, and covered with all the delicacies which the season could furnish, or expense procure, and prepared by the best hands.

A proportionable care was taken of the several other tables provided for the foreign ambassadors and ministers; the lords and gentlemen of his majesty's most honourable privy-council; the lord chancellor and judges; the lords and ladies in waiting; the lord mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and common council; and many others both of the nobility and gentry. The whole number of guests within the hall, including the galleries, being upwards of twelve hundred; and that of the gentlemen pensioners, yeomen of the guard, horse and horse-grenadier guards, and servants attendant upon their majesties and the royal family, and who were entertained at places provided in the neighbourhood, amounting to 729.

And that this court may form some judgment of the entertainment, your committee have hereunto subjoined the bill of fare of their majesties table, and the totals of several bills on this occasion, amounting to 6898*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* which your committee have the satisfaction to acquaint this honourable court, have been all ordered for payment.

Your committee, likewise, having provided a great variety of the choicest wines, took care that every guest should be supplied with plenty and dispatch; and yet the various services performed without hurry or confusion.

For this purpose your committee issued no more tickets for admission than what (considering the necessary number of attendants, amounting to 240 persons) would fill the hall without incommoding the royal personages for whom the feast was intended.

And to prevent as much as possible the intrusion of

strangers (too frequent on such occasions), your committee directed a temporary porch to be erected in the front of the hall, where gentlemen of trust were placed at three several bars.

Upon the whole, your committee omitted no care or pains to render the entertainment as commodious and agreeable as possible to the royal guests, and in some measure expressive of the zeal and veneration of this honourable court for their august sovereign, his most amiable consort, and illustrious family, and of their sense of his gracious condescension in honouring this city with his royal presence. Happy, if they have, in any degree answered expectation, and are allowed to have done justice to the honourable trust reposed in them.

Samuel Fludyer,	Charles Meredith,
Robert Alsop,	John Rivington,
Richard Glyn,	Thomas Cogan,
Francis Gosling,	Edward Waldo,
Thomas Long,	W. Reeves,
Robert Wilsonn,	Samuel Freeman,
Francis Ellis,	William Tyser,
Henry Kent,	John Patterson.
James Walton,	

THE KING'S TABLE.

First Service.

12 Dishes of olio, turtle, pottages, and soups ...	44	2	0
28 Ditto fish, viz., John Dories, red mullets, &c.	44	2	0
7 Ditto roast venison	10	0	0
3 Westphalia hams consume, and richly ornamented	6	6	0
2 Dishes pullets a la royale	2	2	0
2 Dishes tongues Espagniole	3	3	0
6 Ditto chickens a la reine	6	6	0
1 Ditto Tondron devaux a la Danzic	1	1	0
1 Harrico	1	1	0
1 Dish popiets of veale glasse	1	4	0
2 Dishes filets of lamb a la conte	2	2	0
2 Ditto comports of squabs	2	2	0
2 Ditto filets of beef marinate	3	0	0
2 Ditto of mutton a la mercorance	2	2	0
22 Ditto fine vegetables	16	16	0

Second Service.

6 Dishes fine ortolans	25	4	0
10 Ditto quails	15	0	0

10 Dishes notts	30	0	0
1 Ditto wheat-ears	1	1	0
1 Goodevau patte	1	10	0
1 Perrigoe pie	1	10	0
1 Dish best chicks	1	1	0
4 Dishes woodcocks	4	4	0
2 Ditto pheasants	3	3	0
4 Ditto teal	3	3	0
4 Ditto Snipes	3	3	0
2 Ditto partridges	2	2	0
2 Ditto patty's royal	3	0	0

Third Service.

1 Racout royal	1	1	0
8 Dishes fine green morrells	8	8	0
10 Ditto fine green peas	10	10	0
3 Ditto asparagus heads	2	2	0
3 Ditto fine fat livers	1	11	6
3 Ditto fine combs	1	11	6
5 Ditto green truffles	5	5	0
5 Ditto artichokes a la provinciale	2	12	6
5 Ditto mushrooms au blank	2	12	6
1 Dish cardons a la bejamel	0	10	6
1 Ditto knots of eggs	0	10	6
1 Ditto ducks' tongues	0	10	6
3 Dishes of peths	1	11	6
1 Dish of Truffles in oil	0	10	6
4 Dishes of pallets	2	2	0
2 Ditto ragout mille	2	2	0

Fourth Service.

2 Curious. ornamented cakes	2	12	0
12 Dishes blancmange, representing different figures	12	12	0
12 Ditto clear marbrays	14	8	0
16 Ditto fine cut pastry	16	16	0
2 Ditto mille fuelles	1	10	6

The Centre of the Table.

1 Grand pyramid of demies of shell-fish, of various sorts	2	2	0
32 Cold things of sorts, viz., temples, shapes, landscapes in jellies, savory cakes, and almond gottees	33	12	0
3 Grand epergues, filled with fine pickles, and garnished round with plates of sorts, as laspicks, rolards, &c.	6	6	0

Total of the king's table 374 1 3

TOTALS OF THE SEVERAL BILLS.

Mr. George Dance, clerk of the works	65	4	6
Mr. Richard Gripton, coffee-man	56	10	0
Ditto, coffee, tea, &c., for committee	37	13	0
Mr. John Read, carpenter	876	6	0
Mr. Kuhff, confectioner	212	1	0
Mr. Wilder, ditto	121	14	0
Mr. Scott, ditto	91	14	0
Messrs. Kuhff, Wilder, and Scott, ditto	174	9	0
Mr. Brughan, wax-chandler	31	0	0
Mr. Gerrard, ditto	30	12	0
Mrs. Jones, ditto	30	12	0
Mr. Cotterell, china-man	30	11	0
Mr. Vyse, ditto	18	14	0
Mr. Wylde, Paul's-Head Tavern	47	13	0
Mr. Edward Wix, bricklayer	147	16	0
Mr. Charles Eastop, mason	6	4	0
Messrs. Alexander and Shrimpton, smiths	300	1	0
Mr. Peter Roberts, remembrancer	63	0	0
Messrs. Wareham, Oswald, Argyll, Horton, and Birch, cooks	1600	0	0
Mr. Stanley, band of music	115	0	0
Mr. Thomas Pattle, hall-keeper	126	0	0
Messrs. Shasson, Saunders, and Woodroffe, upholsterers	458	19	0
Messrs. Allan, wine	178	12	0
Mr. Francis Magnus, ditto	175	8	0
Mr. Frederick Staydert, hock	126	8	0
Messrs. Brown and Rightop, wine	48	5	0
Mr. Thomas Burfoot and Son, woollen-draper ..	258	5	0
Messrs. Foster and Son, ditto	74	13	0
Mr. Thomas Gilpin, plate	57	17	0
Mr. Deputy Samuel Ellis and Richard Cleeve, pewterers	264	3	0
Mr. Christopher Dent, butler	190	0	0
Mr. Robert Dixon, baker	8	0	10
Mrs. Rachael Stephens, brewer	8	8	0
Messrs. Barber and Shuttleworth, fruiterers....	100	0	0
Messrs. Mason and Whitworth, ribbands	7	3	0
Mr. Charles Gardener, engraver	23	13	0
Artillery Company	20	0	0
Mr. Charles Rivington, printer	3	3	0
By musick	13	3	0
Mr. Bromwich, papier-mache	70	14	0
Mr. James Dobson, Bear-Inn, Basinghall-street..	42	15	0
Mr. John Handford, Swan-with-Two-Necks, Lad-Lane	20	15	0
Mr. John Greenhow, Castle-Inn, Wood-street..	29	5	0

Brought forward	£6351	4	4
Mr. Richard Overhall, Blossoms-Inn, in Lawrence-lane	34	5	0
Mr. Thomas Whaley, Bell Inn, in Wood-street	42	10	0
Mr. Richard Walkden, stationer	6	15	0
City Marshal	100	0	0
Mrs. Mary Harrington, glazier	15	16	0
Messrs. Wallis and Michel, plumbers	63	0	0
Messrs. Hope and Son, painters	20	18	0
Henry Powney, esq., sword-bearer's claim	5	0	0
Mr. William Palmer, senior attorney of the mayor's court claim	2	0	0
Serjeants of the chamber, for delivery of the tickets, &c.	4	10	0
Yeomen of the chamber's claim	4	0	0
Peter Denny, for lighting the chandeliers	20	0	0
Sir James Hodges, town-clerk, for attending the committee	157	10	0
William Rix, clerk to Sir James Hodges, for ditto	15	15	0
Andrew Bason, hall-keeper's man	10	10	0
Six marshal's men	1	10	0
Six necessary women	6	6	0
Town-clerk's servants	5	5	0
Chamberlain's household servants	5	5	0
Messrs. Chesson, Woodroffe, and Saunders, extra bill	10	10	0
Mr. Thomas Gilpin, for the use of plate	20	0	0
Mr. Chamberlain's clerks	5	6	0
Daniel Philpot, esq., cook to his majesty	10	10	0
Thomas Dean, for attending the committee	1	1	0
Total	£6898	6	4

landish dresses, in strange spotted skins and painted hides, of their rowers, &c., the barge belonging to the stationers' company, after having passed the narrow strait through one of the arches of Westminster-bridge, and tacked about to do honour to my lord mayor's landing, touched at Lambeth, and took on board an hamper of charet, (the tribute annually paid to learning) from the archbishop's palace. This, indeed, is constantly reserved for the future regalement of the master, wardens, and court of assistants—and not suffered to be shared by the common crew of liverymen: though one of them, I hear, committed a kind of sacrilege, and profanely stole a bottle.

As the ceremonies of swearing in my lord mayor at Westminster-hall are so well known to you and me, and repeated annually, I did not stay to see them, but landed as soon as I could, in my return back, at the Temple-stairs. Here I found, that some of the city companies had disembarked from their barges before me. All along Temple-lane, leading from the stairs, I saw them draw up in order, between a row of train-bands on each side, who kept excellent discipline; the Temple-gate at the top of the lane, opening into Fleet-street, being kept shut, and barricadoed from assailants; and only some small parties of the unorderly, undisciplined mob, on the forlorn hope, just reconnoitring them through the defiles of bye-courts and passages, and retreating as fast as they could, in order to make a stand in the high-roads, through which these regulars were afterwards to force a passage. The barges belonging to some of the other companies had the prudence, as there was no danger of short allowance, not to land their men, who regaled themselves comfortably on board, while the others were cooling their heels in the lane some hours, waiting till the royal procession had passed by. My lord mayor, indeed, and his attendants, were invited by the master and benchers of the Temple, to come on shore, and were refreshed in the Temple-hall. Every house from Temple-bar to Guild-hall, was crowded from top to bottom, and many had scaffoldings besides. Carpets and rich hangings were hung out on the fronts all the way along. And for the honour of the city I must observe, that contrary to what was practised at the coronation, instead of letting out places to hire, and making money of provisions at advanced prices, the inhabitants (some few excepted) generously accommodated their friends and customers gratis, and entertained them in a most elegant manner: so that,

The following letter contains so many interesting facts connected with their majesties' visit, that we cannot refrain inserting it:

Dear Sir,—I must own, that I look upon that part of the ceremony, on this occasion, which is presented to us on the water, as perhaps equal to what we read of in Holland or Venice: I therefore took a boat, and ordered the waterman to row me along-side my lord mayor's and the companies barges, as they proceeded on to Westminster. Our Thames you have seen, indeed, but never so richly adorned with gilded gondolas, (shall I call them?) and almost covered with innumerable boats or skiffs. The skimmers' barge was distinguished from the rest by the out-

though the citizen's shops were shut, they might be said to have kept open house. The same was also done in all the streets from St. James's, through which the royal cavalcade was to pass.

This set out from the palace about twelve o'clock; but (would you believe it?) by the mismanagement of those who should have taken care to clear the way of hackney-coaches and other obstructions, such long and frequent stops were made, that it was near six hours before the royal family got to friend Barclay's house opposite Bow-church, from whence they were to see the city procession, in a balcony hung with crimson velvet; by which delay, my lord mayor was enabled to return the compliment to his majesty, who was just as much in the dark at the coming back of the procession at the coronation. As the royal family passed our window, I counted between twenty and thirty coaches belonging to them and their attendants, besides those of the foreign ambassadors, officers of state, and the principal nobility.

The royal family proceeded in the following order:

His royal highness the duke of Cumberland, in his coach drawn by six horses, preceded and followed by guards.

Her royal highness the princess Amelia, in the same manner.

His royal highness the duke of York, in a new state coach, in the same manner. His royal highness's coach was the most elegant of all, and instead of coronets at the corners, had a most superb gilt ducal coronet in the center of the top.

Their royal highnesses prince William, prince Henry, and prince Frederick, in one coach, in the same manner.

Their royal highnesses the princess dowager of Wales, the princess Augusta, and the princess Caroline, in one coach, preceded by twelve footmen in black caps, and with guards, and a grand retinue.

Their majesties in their state coach, preceded by the earl of Harcourt in his chariot, and the dukes of Rutland and Devonshire in another chariot, the grenadier guards, and the yeomen of the guards, and followed by a corps of the horse guards.

A booth had been erected at the east end of St. Paul's church-yard, for the children of Christ-church hospital, being a royal foundation to pay their respects to their

majesties. As soon, therefore as their majesties' coach came opposite this booth it made a stop, and the senior scholar of the grammar school in the hospital, stepping up to the side of it, most humbly addressed the king in the following manner:

"Most august and gracious sovereign,

"From the condescension and goodness which your majesty displays towards even the meanest of your subjects, we are emboldened to hope you will accept the tribute of obedience and duty which we poor orphans are permitted to present you.

"Educated and supported by the munificence of a charity, founded, enlarged, and protected by your royal predecessors, with the warmest gratitude, we acknowledge our inexpressible obligations to its bounty, and the distinguished happiness we have hitherto enjoyed under the constant patronage of former princes. May this ever be our boast, and our glory! Nor can we think we shall prefer our prayer in vain, whilst with earnest but humble supplications, we implore the patronage and protection of your majesty.

"To our ardent petition for your princely favours, may we presume, dread sovereign, to add our most respectful congratulations on your auspicious marriage with your royal consort. Strangers to the disquietude which often dwells within the circle of a crown, long may your majesties experience the heart-felt satisfaction of domestic life; in the uninterrupted possession of every endearment of the most tender union, every blessing of conjugal affection, every comfort of parental felicity. And may a race of princes, your illustrious issue and descendants, formed by the example, and inheriting the virtues of their great and good progenitors, continue to sway the British sceptre to the latest posterity."

As soon as he had finished, the boys in a grand chorus chanted *God save the King. Amen.* After which the senior scholar delivered two copies of the speech to the king and queen, who received them most graciously.

What was most remarkable, were the prodigious acclamations and tokens of affection shewn by the populace to Mr. Pitt, who came in his chariot accompanied by earl Temple. At every stop the mob clung about every part of the vehicle, hung upon the wheels, hugged his footmen, and even kissed his horses. There was an

universal huzza; and the gentlemen at the windows and in the balconies waved their hats, and the ladies their handkerchiefs. The same, I am informed, was done all the way he passed along.

The procession having passed me, I posted away along the back lanes to avoid the crowd, and got to Guildhall some time before my lord-mayor could reach thither. I had procured a ticket through the interest of Mr. ———, who was one of the committee for managing the entertainment. When I had got in, I soon found out my friend, who informed me of the following particulars: he told me, that the doors of the hall were opened at nine o'clock, for the private admission of such ladies into the galleries, who were favoured by the gentlemen of the committee, and consequently got the best places: that at twelve they were again opened for the general reception of all who had a right to come in: that particularly at the entrance of Mr. Pitt and lord Temple, there was a loud and universal clap, which was continued for some time. The galleries presented a very brilliant show of ladies; and among the company below were all the officers of state, the principal nobility, and the foreign ambassadors, among whom I could but particularly remark the rich and singular dresses of the Algerine and Tripoline ambassador and his son. It was past six before my lord-mayor came in; when immediately dispositions were made for the reception of their majesties, and the royal family. A temporary passage (enclosed at the sides and top) had been made leading to the hall-gate, and this was lined by the common-council men, many of them with candles in their hands: the committee formed a passage from the hall-gate across to the steps leading to what is called the King's Bench. You know it, it is where my lord Mansfield sat, when you went with me to hear me give evidence in Mr. Hunt's suit. At the bottom of these steps my lord and lady mayoress (with the aldermen) stood to receive each of the royal family (except their majesties) as they came, and the two sheriffs were stationed at the outward door of the temporary passage, to meet and conduct them. After waiting about an hour in this order, came the three young princes, then (at some intervals) the princess Amelia, then the duke of Cumberland, then the princess Dowager, and after that the duke of York, all of them being received with great

clapping, &c. Notice being now given, that their majesties coach was near, the lord and lady mayoress with the aldermen advanced to the great door of the hall, and waited there with the sheriffs to receive them. At their majesties entrance, you have been told that the lord mayor presented the city sword, which being returned, he carried it before the king, the queen following with the lady mayoress behind her. The music had struck up, but was drowned in the acclamations of the company: in short, all was life and joy; even their giantships Gog and Magog seemed to be almost animated.

Their majesties were pleased, with wonderful condescension, to return the compliments that were paid to them, and, in express terms, declared their admiration at the splendor and magnificence that every where surrounded them, as did also the rest of the royal family. They now proceeded on in the same order to the council-chamber, as it is called; where (as you may have read before) the number of city-knights was increased by the honour of knighthood being conferred on the two sheriffs, Messrs. Nash and Cartwright, and my lord mayor's brother, heretofore Mr. Thomas Fludyer. After staying here for about half an hour, the royal family returned into the hall, and were conducted to the upper end of it, called the Hustings; where a table was provided for them. This table was set off with a variety of emblematic ornaments beyond description elegant, and a superb canopy was placed over their majesties heads at the upper end. It was almost nine before the dinner (or rather supper) was served up to the royal family, who all sat at the same table, and no other person with them. One particular I cannot help acquainting you with, *viz.*, that the ladies in waiting upon the queen had claimed a kind of right, by custom, to dine at the same table with her majesty; but this was overruled, and they obliged to submit to eat in company with those creatures, the aldermen's ladies, at my lady mayoress's tables; which, by the bye, were no less than three in number, and served in the most elegant manner, in the apartment called the King's Bench. Other ladies of distinction, not accommodated there, had an entertainment at the town-clerk's house. The lord mayor and aldermen had a table spread for them in the lower hustings. A table for the privy-counsellors, ministers of state, and others of the nobility, was on the right hand, as you ascend the upper hustings;

another for the foreign ministers on the left. Our friend Hopkins, who roars out with such heartiness the truly British song of *O the Roast Beef of Old England*, &c., will be highly pleased when he hears, that on each of these two last-mentioned tables, was placed at the upper end half a side of cold roast-beef, in one of which appeared to be stuck a flag with the royal arms; and in the other, a flag with those of the city. The common council-men were not overlooked by those of their brethren, who had no small share in conducting the whole of this entertainment; for they had eight tables (as well as I can recollect) allotted to them in the body of the hall, at the end where my lord mayor's table was. The judges, serjeants, &c., dined in the old council-chamber. The attendants upon all the company were plentifully regaled in the court of Common-Pleas. I should enclose you a topographical map, in order for your rightly understanding the various places of action; but let it suffice to tell you, that the ground was properly marked out, and the commissaries were much more than not deficient in providing the alimentary supplies for each party.

Four aldermen of the committee set on the dishes, and, with the lords in waiting, attended the royal table. My lord mayor stood behind the king (as we may say) in quality of chief-butler, while the lady mayoress waited on her majesty in the same capacity. The entertainment consisted of two courses, besides the desert. To say that it was elegant, sumptuous, and all that, is saying something and nothing.

About the time that the second course was bringing on to the royal table, I observed, that my lord and lady mayoress handed each of them a glass of wine to their respective majesties. Forms must be gone through: the common cryer proclaimed aloud,—that his majesty drank “Prosperity to the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the city of London, and the trade thereof.” The music directly struck up with the noble anthem, composed by Handel, of *God save the King*. Immediately upon this ceremony being passed, my lord and lady mayoress were dismissed from further attendance on the royal table, and suffered, or rather ordered, to go to dinner. It is said that the usual phrase is from the king, “Now my lord mayor, please to go to dinner;” the like being also repeated by the queen, *mutatis, mutandis*, to the lady mayoress. I was not near enough to

hear it; but Sir Samuel and his lady, I know, went to their respective tables; while Sir Robert Ladbroke, Sir Richard Glyn, the two sheriffs, and some other gentlemen of the committee, were left to wait on their majesties. I must not forget to tell you, that the grand service of plate at the king's table was entirely new.

My lord-mayor, as soon as he got to his table, in return of the honour done to the city by his majesty's most gracious toast, through the throat of the same common cryer, bawled out aloud—“Health and a long reign to their majesties;” upon which the music struck up immediately. The healths of the rest of the royal families were in order drunk at my lord-mayor's, and the other tables, but not in the same ceremonious public manner.

Their majesties, with the royal family, retired directly after their repast, to the council-chamber, where they had their tea. In the mean time every thing was removed; and the hustings, where they had dined, they floor of which had been covered with rich carpeting, was again covered afresh, and prepared for the ball, which was to ensue. On the return of their majesties, and as soon as they were seated under their canopy (for however they may like it, it is below the dignity of royal feet ever to foot it) the ball was opened with a minuet performed by the duke of York, with lady mayoress his partner. Other minuets succeeded, by younger branches of the royal family, with ladies of distinction. It was now about twelve o'clock, when his majesty signified his intentions of going; and the hurry and confusion without doors, in bringing up the carriages, rendering it impossible for the royal family to observe the same order in returning as in coming to the city, the procession back was consequently irregular. Their majesties waited half an hour before their coach could be got up, and, after their departure, the princess Dowager was above twenty minutes in the temporary passage, (nor could she be prevailed on to return into the hall) waiting for her's. The royal family did not reach St. James's before two in the morning. I must observe to you, that, some how or other, before all the royal family were gone, there was a cessation of the music, which, though repeatedly called for, did not answer, the gentlemen of the cat-gut, &c. having thought proper to march off.

Upon the whole, it must be confessed, that this entertainment at Guildhall much exceeded that at Westminster-hall, as well in the magnificence and profusion that attended it, as in the regularity and decorum with which it was conducted. Champagne, Burgundy, and other valuable wines, were to had every where; and nothing was so scarce as water. Even the ladies in the galleries had an elegant collation provided for them, to go to as they pleased, in what is called the Irish-chamber, and apartment adjoining. His majesty himself was pleased to declare, that, to be elegantly entertained, he must come into the city. Miss Chudleigh politely told sir Grisp Gascoigne, that they must never pretend at court to give entertainments after the city. The foreign ministers in general expressed their wonder; and one of them said in French, that this entertainment was fit only for one king to give to another.

The houses were illuminated in all the streets, both in the city and Westminster, leading to St. James's; and some of them were adorned with curious transparent devices of the initial letters of their majesties' names, and of lamps so disposed as to represent a crown. You will hardly believe, that the crowd in some places was very near as great at the return of the royal family as at their coming; and I can assure you, that Mr. Pitt was attended with the same acclamations all along quite to his own house.

By looking over the number of losts, (among which was a militia-man's musquet) in the *Daily Advertiser* of next day, I find that all the mob did not come merely to see the show. Some accidents you may suppose must have happened; I myself narrowly escaped with the loss only of one eye of my spectacles.

I am your's, very sincerely, &c.

JAMES HEMING.

It has been mentioned in the report of the committee, that Mr. Barclay's house was expressly engaged for their majesties to view the lord-mayor's shew, and the following letter written by a married daughter of Mr. Barclay's, gives a simple but lively account of their majesties' proceedings during the visit.

I fully intended before I received your last packet to make choice of the first opportunity to give you a sketch

of the honour we received; and to inform you that the splendour, with every other circumstance relating to the important day, far exceeded the utmost stretch of our imagination; and has left so pleasing an impression, that I am tempted to wish old Time would forget to erase it. To pretend to give a relation of the hurry and fatigue before the arrival of our royal guests, would be the height of folly, since my pen cannot paint one-half; I shall, therefore, proceed to acquaint you, that about one o'clock papa and mamma, with sister Western to attend them, took their stands at the street door, where my two brothers had long been, to receive the nobility, above one hundred of whom were then waiting in the warehouse, from which place every appearance of merchandize was removed, and properly decorated for the purpose.

As the royal family came, they were conducted into one of the counting-houses, which was transformed into a very pretty parlour for that purpose. The newspapers have doubtless informed you of the procession; so I shall only say, that at half-past two o'clock their majesties arrived, which was two hours later than they intended; but had you seen the crowd, you would have wondered how they ever got through it. A platform was raised in the street, on which, before their majesties alighted, my brothers spread a carpet, and as soon as they entered, the procession began. The queen came up first, handed by her chamberlain; the king followed, with the rest of the royal family, agreeable to their rank; the master and mistress of the house, and then the quality. On the second pair of stairs was placed our own company, about forty in number, the chief of whom were of the Puritan order, and all in their orthodox habits. Next the drawing-room door was placed our own selves, I mean my papa's children, for, to the great mortification of our visitors, none else were allowed to enter the drawing-room; for as kissing the king's hand without kneeling was an honour never before conferred, his majesty chose to confine that mark of condescension to our own family, as a return for the trouble we had been at upon the occasion.

But to proceed. After the royal pair had shewn themselves to the populace for a few moments from the balcony, we were all introduced; and you may believe at that juncture we felt no small palpitations.

His majesty met us at the door, which was a conde-

ascension we did not expect; at which place he saluted us with great politeness; and advancing to the upper end of the room, we performed the ceremony of kissing the queen's hand, at the sight of whom we were all in raptures, not only from the brilliancy of her appearance, which was pleasing beyond description, but being throughout her whole person possessed of that inexpressible something that is beyond a set of features, and equally claims our attention. To be sure, she has not a fine face, but a most agreeable countenance, and is vastly genteel, with an air, notwithstanding her being a little woman, truly majestic; and I really think by her manner, is expressed that complacency of disposition which is perfectly amiable; and though I could never perceive that she deviated from that dignity which belongs to a crowned head, yet on the most trifling occasions she displayed all that easy behaviour that elegant negligence can bestow.

I suppose that you will not think the picture complete, unless the important article of dress be in part communicated; therefore, agreeable to the rules of painting, I shall begin with the head. Her hair, which is of a light colour, hung in what is called coronation ringlets, encompassed with a circle of diamonds, so beautiful in themselves, and so prettily disposed, as will admit of no description: her clothes, which were as rich as gold, silver and silk, could make them, was a suit from which fell a train, supported by a little page in scarlet and silver. The lustre of her stomacher was inconceivable, being one of the presents she received whilst princess of Mecklenburgh, on which was represented, by a vast profusion of diamonds placed on it, the magnificence attending so great a king, who, I must tell you, I think a very personable man: and the singular marks of honour by him bestowed on us, declare his heart disposed to administer all that pleasure and satisfaction that royalty can give: and nothing could have added to the scene, but that of conversing with the queen, who enquired if we could talk French for that purpose; and so flattered our vanity, as to tell the lady in waiting, that the greatest mortification she had met with since her arrival in England, was her not being able to converse with us. I doubt not but that the novelty of our appearance raised her curiosity; for amidst such profusion of glitter, we must look like a parcel of nuns. The same ceremony was performed of kissing the hand with the princess dowager, Amelia,

Augusta, and the duke of Cumberland, York, and the other princes, who followed the king's example, in complimenting each of us with a kiss, but not till their majesties had left the room; for, you must know, there were proper apartments fitted up to give the rest of the royal family an opportunity of paying and receiving compliments; and then we were at liberty to go in and out as we pleased: but we could not bear the thoughts of absenting ourselves while we had one leg to stand on: and the feast prepared for our eyes supplied every other want, or at least rendered us insensible of any.

As both the doors of the drawing-room were open the whole time, the people without had a very good opportunity of seeing: besides which, the queen was up stairs three times; and one of these opportunities was made use of for introducing my little darling, with Patty Barclay and Priscilla Bell, who were the only children admitted. At this sight I was so happy as to be present. You may be sure I was not a little anxious on account of my girl, who very unexpectedly remembered all instructions, but kissed the queen's hand with such a grace, that I thought the princess dowager would have smothered her with kisses; and on her return to the drawing-room, such a report was made of her to his majesty, that miss was sent for again, when she was so lucky as to afford the king great amusement, in particular by telling him she loved the king, though she must not love fine things, and that her grandpapa would not allow her to make a courtesy. The simplicity of her dress and manner seemed to give great pleasure, and she was dismissed with as great applause as my most boundless wishes could desire. Her sweet face made such an impression on the duke of York, that I rejoice she was only five instead of fifteen: When he first met her, which was by accident, he made use of all his eloquence to persuade miss to give him leave to introduce her to the queen; but she would by no means consent to go with him, till I informed her that it was no less than a prince that was making court to her; which she no sooner heard, than her little female heart relented, and she gave him her hand—a true copy of the sex.

The king, you may observe, never sat down, nor did he taste any thing during the whole time. Her majesty drank tea, which was brought her on a silver waiter by brother John, who delivered it to the lady in waiting, and she presented it kneeling, which to us, who had never seen that ceremony before, appeared as pretty as any of

the parade. The rest of the royal family and nobility repaired to the place prepared for refreshments. Our kitchen, upon this occasion, was turned into a tea-room, and coffee and chocolate were prepared for above a hundred people, and four females to attend; besides, there was a cold collation of hams, fowls, tongues, hung-beef, &c., all served in small plates, for this repast was only designed for a bit, by way of staying the stomach. The dressers, after being covered with a fine cloth, were spread with white biscuits, rusks, &c. The floor, like the rest of the apartments, was covered with a carpet. In the decoration of this room, I had like to have laid myself up in the morning. In the little parlour was a desert of fruits and sweetmeats, and three men-servants to wait in the character of valets, for no servants in livery were suffered to appear. Above stairs was the like provision made for our own company, and proper attendants in waiting, for no person that day was to stir from the post they were placed at, to prevent confusion. Through fatigue, mamma was very soon obliged to retire; then sister Weston was declared mistress of the ceremony, and sister Patty her attendant; as for us, we were so happy as to have nothing to do but to converse with the ladies, some of whom were very sociable.

As they staid till seven, the drawing-room and balcony were illuminated, which added prodigiously to the beauty of the scene. But what charmed us most of all, was their majesties being left with us by themselves, having sent all away before them, except the two ladies in waiting on the queen; and indeed this has been deemed by the public the greatest mark of respect they could bestow, to trust themselves without so much as a guard in the house, or any of the nobles. The leave they took of us was such as we might expect from our equals; full of apologies for the trouble they had given us, and returning thanks for the entertainment; which they were so careful to have fully explained, that the queen came up to us as we were all standing on one side the door, and had every word interpreted, and left us in astonishment at her condescension, my brothers attending them to the coach in the same manner they had received them, only with the additional honour of assisting the queen to get in. Some of us sat up to see them return from the hall, otherwise we should have seen nothing of the grandeur of the procession, as we could not have a view of it as they came,

and it was worth our pains. Their majesties, thinking it a compliment from us, took great care to return it, by the notice they took of us as they passed. In short, they omitted nothing that could demonstrate respect; an instance of which the king gave, by ordering twenty-four of the life-guards, who were drawn up during his majesty's stay in Bow church-yard, to be placed opposite our house all night, lest any of the canopy should be pulled down by the mob, in which there was one-hundred yards of silk damask.

If there were any particular circumstance which might be said to impart the slightest uneasiness to his majesty on his visit to the city, it was the almost enthusiastic manner in which Mr. Pitt was received. He appeared to be the chief point of attraction to the people, and in some respect the dignity of royalty seemed to be eclipsed by the marked attention which was paid to that distinguished statesman. In this ebullition of the popular sentiment, his majesty read the high degree of unpopularity which attended the late change in the ministry, and it made that deep impression upon him which exhibited itself in a short time in a very extraordinary manner.

On the 16th, the house of commons waited on his majesty with the following address:

The humble Address of the House of Commons to the King.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, beg leave to return your majesty the most humble and hearty thanks of this house, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, at the same time, to offer to your majesty our warmest congratulations on the joyful and auspicious event of your royal nuptials, with a princess descended from an illustrious Protestant line, distinguished by the most eminent graces and endowments, and worthy to be the royal partner of your throne by possessing every virtue that can adorn it.

We beg leave also to express our just sense of that affectionate regard which your majesty has shewn for your people, by consulting on this most important and interesting occasion, as on every other, their happiness and that of their posterity. And we assure your majesty, that with hearts full of gratitude for this signal instance of your royal attention to the welfare of your subjects, and thoroughly sensible of the exalted merit of your illustrious consort, your faithful commons will not fail to make such honourable and ample provision, as may enable her to support her royal dignity with proper lustre, in case she shall survive your majesty; for the long continuance of whose life we shall never cease to offer up to the Divine Providence our most ardent vows.

Allow us, Sir, to return our sincere and humble thanks to your majesty, for your tender concern for the prosperity of your people, in wishing to restore to them the blessings of peace; and to declare that we cannot too much admire that humanity so becoming your royal breast, which, amidst the successes of your own kingdoms, feels for the calamities of other nations.

We are fully persuaded, that those beneficent dispositions which induced your majesty to consent to the appointment of a congress for a general pacification, and to enter into a negotiation with France for a particular peace, could not have failed of the desired effect, if the enemy, influenced by the same motives, had shewn the same good intentions, and would have complied with such conditions as were requisite for the accomplishment of that salutary work.

We do most gratefully acknowledge your majesty's vigilance and firmness, in not suffering the hopes or expectations of peace to produce the least suspense or relaxation in the exertion of your arms. And we congratulate your majesty on those happy successes, which, under the good providence of God, we must ascribe to the wisdom and vigour of your majesty's measures; to which we owe the reduction of Dominica, the conquest of Belleisle, achieved with so much reputation to the British arms, and the destruction of the enemy's power in the East Indies, by the acquisition of Pondicherry, their last remaining settlement of any strength in those countries.

The wise and able conduct of his serene highness prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, whereby he hath succes-

sively defeated the projects of the enemy, and hath prevented their making that progress, which, from their superior numbers, they expected, together with that gracious approbation, which your majesty hath been pleased to express of the valour of your troops, cannot but give the highest satisfaction to your faithful commons: and they see, with just admiration, the repeated proofs, in every campaign, of that unshaken resolution, and of those astonishing efforts, which alone could have enabled your majesty's great ally the king of Prussia, to resist the numerous forces of his enemies.

We beg leave to assure your majesty of our entire concurrence and support in the most effectual prosecution of the war, for the interest and advantage of these kingdoms; and in maintaining, to the utmost of our power, the good faith and honour of your majesty's crown, and the engagements entered into with your allies; and that we are truly sensible, that the constant care and attention of your majesty to pursue the most vigorous measures in every part, where any successful impression can still be made upon the enemy, are the only means to attain that desirable object, an honourable and a lasting peace.

We receive, with the deepest gratitude, that most endearing expression of your majesty's unbounded goodness and affection towards this your native country, in the solemn declaration, which your majesty has been pleased to make, that, as well in the prosecution of the war, as in the conclusion of the peace, no consideration whatever shall induce you to depart from the true interest of these your kingdoms, and from the honour and dignity of your crown.

Your majesty may be assured, that your faithful commons will cheerfully grant such supplies, as the nature and extent of the several services shall be found to require; firmly relying on your majesty's wisdom and justice, that they will be applied with the strictest œconomy, and in such a manner as may most effectually answer the great ends for which they shall be granted.

We do, with great truth, assure your majesty, that it is our most earnest desire, that this first parliament convened by your royal authority, may, by their conduct, give your majesty a happy proof of the zeal, the loyalty, and the affection of your people.

Sensible of the difficult crisis, in which we are as-

sembled, we are determined to concur, with the greatest firmness and unanimity, in whatever may contribute to the public welfare, may tend to defeat the views and expectations of our enemies, and may convince the world, that there are no difficulties, which your majesty's wisdom and perseverance, with the assistance of your parliament, cannot surmount.

His majesty's answer :

Gentlemen,

I return you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The early proofs of your most cordial attachment to me and my family, upon the occasion of my marriage, and the particular regard and attention which you express for the queen, in a manner that so nearly concerns her, cannot but give me most sensible satisfaction. The assurance of your steady and vigorous support, must add the greatest weight to my endeavours for the public good ; and will be the surest means of bringing the war in which we are engaged, to such a conclusion as is the constant object of my wishes ; and will most effectually provide for the honour, happiness, and security of my kingdoms.

An address was presented to the queen, at the same time, by the house of commons, on her nuptials ; but amongst the various addresses which were delivered to her majesty on her marriage, that from the ladies of the borough of St. Albans may claim the precedency for its singularity, and for the amusement which it afforded to her majesty. It was as follows :—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Address of the ladies of the borough of St. Albans, in the county of Hertford.

May it please your majesty,

We your most dutiful and affectionate subjects, being by custom precluded from being named in the address of the mayor and corporation of this place, beg leave to approach your majesty with the warmest congratulations on your happy nuptials. Formed by nature, and improved by the completest education, you were selected by the best of kings, to add the only happiness that was wanting to his majesty in this world.

As subjects are greatly influenced by the example of their sovereign, we have the greatest reason to hope that the matrimonial state will be duly honoured by your majesty's dutiful subjects cheerfully following the royal example : an example too much wanted in this degenerate age, wherein that happy state to which we all aspire, and the sweets of which you have now enjoyed, is made the object of ridicule instead of respect, by too many vain, giddy, and dissipated minds. If the riches of a nation consist in its populousness, this happy country will, in this respect, too soon become poor, whilst the lawful means to continue posterity are either shackled by the restraints of mistaken laws, or despised by those who respect none.

But as every virtuous and commendable action is encouraged by your royal consort, and your own noble sentiments and conduct, we hope this example will be duly followed by your majesty's loyal subjects.

That you may long remain a pattern of conjugal fidelity and happiness, and see a numerous offspring grow up as tender plants under your maternal influence, to be a blessing to their royal parents and to this nation, are the sincere and ardent wishes of your majesty's most dutiful and devoted subjects,

The Ladies of St. Albans

This address, from its extreme singularity, excited general observation, and not a little mirth at the cost of the loyal, but desponding, ladies of St. Albans ; and it gave rise to a *jeu d'esprit*, purporting to be a petition to her majesty from the maidens of this kingdom, of thirty years of age and upwards, praying for a tax on bachelors, to be appropriated to the support of neglected and superannuated virgins.

On Monday the 23d, the committee appointed to prepare the late entertainment for the royal family in Guildhall, waited on their majesties at St. James's, in pursuance of an order of the last common-council, and being introduced to the king in his closet by the duke of Devonshire, the right honourable sir Samuel Fludyer, bart., lord mayor, addressed his majesty to the following effect :

Royal sir,

The lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common council assembled, being desirous (amongst other marks of their personal veneration and esteem for your majesty), to have your majesty's statue erected on the Royal Exchange amongst those of your royal predecessors, and the picture of your majesty put up in the Guildhall of the said city, have, in order hereunto, directed us to make our humble application to your majesty, that your majesty will be pleased to do the city of London the honour to sit for your picture, and to signify your pleasure therein: and we are commanded, at the same time, to express to your majesty the deep and grateful sense which the said court of common council will ever retain of your majesty's gracious condescension, in honouring their late entertainment at Guildhall with your royal presence.

The committee afterwards waited upon the queen, being introduced to her majesty by the duke of Manchester; when the lord mayor addressed her majesty on behalf of the common-council, requesting her majesty would be pleased to sit for her picture; and expressing also the common council's grateful sense of her majesty's condescension in honouring the city with her presence.

His majesty was pleased to receive the committee in a gracious manner, expressing his entire satisfaction at the late entertainment, and signified his royal intention to give orders, that his picture and that of her majesty should be sent to the city.

Her majesty was also pleased to receive the city in a very polite manner; and such of the committee as had not before, were permitted to kiss her majesty's hand.

On the 19th of November, the house of commons proceeded to take into its consideration that part of the king's speech which related to the queen, and a resolution was passed, that in case she should survive his majesty, she should enjoy an income of 100,000*l.* per annum,

with the palace of Somerset-House, and the lodge and lands at Richmond-Park; and that the said annuity should be charged upon all or any part of those revenues of the crown, which by an act made in the previous session were directed to be consolidated with the aggregate fund. A patent also passed the privy-seal, granting unto her majesty the sum of 40,000*l.* yearly, for the better support of her dignity.

On the 2d of December his majesty attended by the right honourable lord Delawar and lord Robert Bertie, went with the usual state to the house of peers, and gave the royal assent to the bill for settling her majesty's dowry. When the act passed, her majesty, who was present and seated on a chair of state on the king's right hand, rose up, and made her obeisance to the king. On presenting this bill, the speaker of the house of commons addressed his majesty as follows:

Most gracious sovereign,

It has been the first care of your faithful commons, to take into their consideration what your majesty most affectionately recommended to them from the throne, namely, the enabling your majesty to make that provision for the queen in case she shall survive you, to which her royal dignity and her own merit give her the justest claim.

On such an occasion, I should ill discharge the trust which has lately been reposed in me by the commons, and most graciously confirmed by your majesty, if I omitted to assure you, that they feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to your majesty, who have made their happiness, and that of their posterity, your principal object. Of this your majesty has given abundant proof, by your royal nuptials with a princess whose illustrious ancestors were early assertors of the civil and religious liberties of mankind, and in consequence closely attached to your majesty's family; a princess, whom the most distinguished virtues and amiable endowments pointed out to your majesty's choice, and made the partner of the brightest crown in Europe.

I cannot but esteem it a very singular honour and happiness to myself, that the first bill, which, by command of the commons I present to your majesty, is a bill, in which they have, with the greatest zeal and unanimity, endeavoured to testify their duty to your majesty, and your royal consort; and that it is no less acceptable to your majesty than to your commons, and all whom they represent.

But, Sir, though they have passed it with the utmost expedition, which their forms allow, yet it is a matter of real satisfaction to them, that they can entertain the most pleasing and well-founded hope, that it will be a long course of years before it can have any effect. And the domestic happiness of the queen is so inseparably connected with the public interests of your people, that on the behalf of her majesty, as well as of every subject of your realm, your faithful commons will never cease to implore the Almighty, that he will be pleased to distinguish this nation by his divine favour and protection, in prolonging your majesty's happy reign beyond an ordinary date; and that if ever the provision of this bill shall become effectual, it may be lamented only by posterity.

The bill, Sir, which I have in my hand, is entitled,

An act for enabling his majesty to make provision for supporting the dignity of the queen, in case she shall survive his majesty.

To which your commons, with all humility, beseech your majesty's royal assent.

The accession of George the Third to the throne of these kingdoms, opened a new and brighter prospect to men of literary merit, who had been honoured with no mark of royal favour in the preceding reign*. His majesty's education in this country, as well as his taste and beneficence, prompted him to be the patron of science and the arts, and early in the year 1762, Dr. Johnson having been represented to him as a very learned and good man, without

any certain provision, his majesty was pleased to grant him a pension of 300*l.* per annum. Lord Bute, who was then prime minister, had the honour to announce this instance of his sovereign's bounty, concerning which many and various stories, all equally erroneous, were propagated at the time, maliciously representing it as a political bribe to Johnson to desert his avowed principles, and become the tool of a government which he held to be founded on usurpation. On this subject, which excited at that time a high degree of interest, Boswell says—"I have taken care to have it in my power to refute those malicious stories, from the most authentic information. Lord Bute told me, that Mr. Wedderburne, afterwards Lord Loughborough, was the person who first mentioned this subject to him. Lord Loughborough told me, that the pension was granted to Johnson solely as the reward of his literary merit, without any stipulation whatever, or even tacit understanding, that he should write for administration. His lordship added, that he was confident the political tracts which Johnson afterwards did write, as they were entirely consonant with his own opinions, would have been written by him though no pension had been granted to him.

"Mr. Thomas Sheridan and Mr. Murphy, who then lived a good deal with him, and Mr. Wedderburne, told me, that they previously talked with Johnson upon this matter, and that it was perfectly understood by all parties, that the pension was merely honorary. Sir Joshua Reynolds told me, that Johnson called

* When Dr. Johnson published the *Rambler*, the highest encomiums were passed upon it by all the literati of the age; and in *The Student, or, Oxford and Cambridge Miscellany*, in which Mr. Bonell Thornton and Mr. Colman were the principal writers, it is said—"May the public favour crown his merits, and may not the English, under the auspicious reign of George II., neglect a man, who, had he lived in the first century, would have been one of the greatest favourites of Augustus." "This flattery," says Boswell, "of the monarch had no effect. It is too well known, that the second George never was an Augustus to learning or genius."

on him, after his majesty's intention had been notified to him, and said he wished to consult his friends as to the propriety of his accepting this mark of the royal favour, after the definition which he had given in his Dictionary of *pension* and *pensioners*. He said he should not have sir Joshua's answer till next day, when he would call again, and desired he might think of it. Sir Joshua answered, he was clear to give his opinion then, that there could be no objection to his receiving from the king a reward for literary merit, and that certainly the definitions in his dictionary were not applicable to him. Johnson, it would seem, was satisfied, for he did not call again till he had accepted the pension, and had waited on lord Bute to thank him. He then told sir Joshua that lord Bute said to him, expressly, 'It is not given you for any thing you are to do, but for what you have done*.' His lordship, he said, behaved in the handsomest manner. He repeated the words twice, that he might be sure Johnson heard them, and thus set his mind perfectly at ease. This nobleman, who has been so virulently abused, acted with great honour in this instance, and displayed a mind truly liberal. A minister of a more narrow and selfish disposition, would have availed himself of such an opportunity to fix an implied obligation on a man of Johnson's powerful talents, to give him his support.

"Mr. Murphy and the late Mr. Sheridan, severally contended for the distinction of having been the first who mentioned to Mr. Wedderburne that Johnson ought to have a pension. When I spoke of this to lord Loughborough, wishing to know if he recollected the prime mover in his business, he said, 'All his friends assisted;' and when I told him that Mr. Sheri-

dan strenuously asserted his claim to it, his lordship said, 'He rang the bell;'—and it is but just to add, that Mr. Sheridan told me, that when he communicated to Dr. Johnson, that a pension was granted to him, he replied in a fervor of gratitude, 'The English language does not afford me terms adequate to my feelings on this occasion. I must have recourse to the French. I am *penetré* with his majesty's goodness.'"

Whatever, however, Boswell may advance in extenuation of the conduct of Dr. Johnson in the acceptance of the pension, so handsomely bestowed upon him by his majesty, it is certain that the learned doctor was also *penetré* with a particular dislike to the noble lord, to whom on the 20th of July, 1762, he wrote a most exuberant letter of thanks for the favour which his lordship had conferred upon him. After perusing the following extract from a letter, which the doctor wrote about a month previously to Baretti, the Italian lexicographer, the doctor must certainly appear in that light which reflects no great lustre upon the independence of his character, and turns the fastidious delicacy which he displayed in regard to his acceptance of the pension into ridicule and burlesque:

You know that we have a new king and a new parliament. Of the new parliament Fitzherbert is a member. We were so weary of our old king, that we are much pleased with his successor: of whom we are so much inclined to hope great things, that most of us begin already to believe them. The young man is hitherto blameless, but it would be unreasonable to expect much from the immaturity of juvenile years, and the ignorance of princely education. *He has been long in the hands of the Scots, and has already favoured them more than the English will contentedly endure.* But perhaps, he scarcely knows whom he has distinguished, or whom he has disgusted.

* This was said by lord Bute, as Dr. Burney was informed by Johnson himself, in answer to a question which he put previously to his acceptance of the intended bounty, "Pray, my lord, what am I expected to do for this pension?"

One of the chief features in the character of the king was an attachment to domestic life, free from the ceremony and restraint of court etiquette; but this he was well aware could not be enjoyed at St. James's, surrounded as he must there necessarily be by those forms of state which are at open variance with domestic tranquillity. His majesty therefore resolved to purchase a residence, to which he could retire, and where he could follow the bent of his amiable dispositions, without being subject to the constant observation of his various attendants. Amongst the many noble mansions which were offered to his majesty, Wanstead-House in Essex appeared in some respects the most eligible, and he resolved to inspect it in person, accompanied by the queen. Upon his majesty being received at the entrance of the grand saloon by the groom of the chambers, he took him by the arm, saying, "You and I, Sir, will go together, and let the ladies enjoy their own conversation."

He conversed with this gentleman in the most affable manner, and finding that he had been in France and Italy, made many inquiries respecting them, and the persons who were there at the time of this gentleman's travels. On taking leave, he told him, if he would come to St. James's he should be glad to see him, and assist him, and turning to the queen, "It is well," said he, "Charlotte, you did not stop here in your way to the palace, for that would have been thought a mean residence after seeing this elegant mansion."

The main objection to this mansion was founded on the distance from town, and the inconvenience which presented itself in travelling from St. James's, as their majesties would be obliged to pass through a great part of the city in order to reach the Essex roads. The purchase of this mansion was therefore

abandoned, and a treaty was entered into for that of Buckingham-house, which was finally completed at the price of 21,000*l*. His majesty presented it to the queen, and it was immediately fitted up in a manner suitable to the illustrious rank of the owner. It is well known that the king early after his accession, evinced a strong predilection for civil architecture and ornamental gardening; but it is remarkable, that during his long reign no superb royal edifice was erected, nor any old one magnificently improved upon a large scale.

The king found Windsor and Hampton-court much in the same state as they had been in since the reign of queen Anne. St. James's, respectable only for its convenience, had been enlarged without elegance. His predecessor chiefly resided at Kensington, or rode to the Old Lodge at Richmond, since pulled down. Kensington-Palace, though irregular and ungraceful, contains apartments well suited to the purposes of state, and is preferable in its situation to any royal residence except Windsor-Castle: but the late sovereign did not like its vicinity to the metropolis. The natural and more just taste that prevailed, caused him equally to dislike the stately unvaried flatness of Hampton-court. He offered, indeed, to submit its artificial gardens to the mercy of the famous *Capability* Brown; but the latter declined doing any thing with them, except letting the trees grow more in their natural way. The king loved more rural scenery, and therefore wished to be more in the country. But he first tried the hand of improvement at Kew and Richmond. At Kew, he expended considerable sums in converting a most uninviting and unfavourable spot into a beautiful pleasure-garden, and made a Paradise bloom in what was before a wild: studding its plantations all round, under the direction of Sir W. Chambers, comprising

all sorts of forms, Roman, Greek, Moresque, and Chinese. But the palace was made merely white and decent. The old house, where the present king was educated, was left standing, and remains as it was. His majesty then metamorphosed Richmond-Gardens, a favourite occasional retreat of many of our kings and queens, and formed an embanked terrace towards the river, where the scene is mild and pleasing, but not striking. But in that part of the ground which lies to the west of the ha! ha! his majesty designed to erect a palace not unworthy of his occasional residence. The ground was marked out for this edifice, and dug for the foundations. Here, however, the work stopped. Yet, so intent was he on erecting a suitable mansion, that he had two large models of designs for it executed under Chambers; one of a more solid, and the other of a lighter character of style. They are both to be seen in the Cartoon-Gallery at Hampton-court. But the elegant observatory was constructed, and properly furnished with astronomical apparatus. In this place the king took great delight: his calls there on his journies between Windsor and London, or during a sojourn at Kew, were very frequent, and here he interested himself deeply both in scientific and mechanical studies. A Scotchman named Gray, who was employed at this observatory several years, used to say that his majesty tried his skill more by his various questions and experiments, than all he had ever met with put together. The king's habitual love of domestic comfort, and the rapid increase of his family, rendering Windsor-Castle incommo-
dious, he erected there the building called the Lodge, in which he gratified his taste for architecture very slightly, as the building by no means harmonizes with the grandeur of the group of which it should seem to form a part.

At Buckingham-house some meretricious ornaments were lopped away, two new wings were built, and the premises greatly extended, without regard to external appearance. Here, however, his majesty formed that spacious library, and collection of maps and views, &c., which have been increasing during his whole reign, and far eclipse any individual possession of the kind in this country. Here proper attention is paid: the books are well arranged, of every class, from pious folios down even to the offensive pamphlets of the passing day. The large space behind the house has more the air of a field than a royal garden. The king pursued his architectural fancy no further for years, though he often amused himself with designs by eminent artists, till about seventeen years ago, when the decaying state of Windsor-Castle claimed his attention. Then he resolved to remove the vicious alterations of Charles II., and to give to that ancient seat of monarchy more of the character which its style, its antiquity, and all its grand associations demanded. He restored the battlements and the windows of a considerable part to their appropriate forms, built a new porch, and constructed a Gothic staircase of great beauty and magnificence. He dismantled the old painted St. George's-hall, and intended to substitute for it a Gothic hall worthy of the proudest periods of the chivalry and pomp of the Plantagenets and Tudors. But the progress of improvement flagged, and his lamented illness stopped it. Before this his majesty had been very attentive to the beautiful restorations in St. George's Chapel; his last work at Windsor was the formation of the Royal Mausoleum, which ultimately received his mortal remains. Some twenty or thirty years back the passion for reviving the ancient English architecture became almost universal. Colleges and churches

were restored ; noblemen's seats assumed the aspect of centuries past. Wyatt, the king's architect, transferred all his talents from colonnades and domes, to towers, buttresses, and pinnacles. His majesty determined on a palace at Kew. Setting aside the more appropriate design of an Italian villa, he ordered Wyatt to build a castle something after the idea of that of Conway. This edifice was, internally, to have commemorated the expulsion of the French from Egypt. But the site is wholly unsuitable, and even renders the little castle a ludicrous object. Unfinished it remains, and it is likely to remain so. His majesty, however, formed with much assiduity his botanical garden at Kew, which he highly prized, as it contains a collection of exotics to be found nowhere else. A space at Kensington was devoted to horticulture, which he often visited with his gardener Forsyth, displaying much knowledge of this branch of culture. Beyond what has been mentioned, the king never gratified his early passion for architecture, in which science he was acknowledged to be well skilled.

His majesty, although well aware that the love of popularity is a mere bubble rising and bursting in a moment, yet he was frequently heard to say, that he wished to reign in the hearts and affections of his people. He was by no means ignorant of the English character, in which is included a strong, and in many respects, well-founded jealousy of the employment of foreigners, to the utter exclusion of natives. On the marriage of their majesties, it was rumoured that all the women of rank in the duchy of Mecklenburg Strelitz either hoped to accompany or follow the queen of England into the *Land of Promise* ; and perhaps in the goodness and youthful openness of her heart, her majesty might have been induced to hold

out some distant expectations of future favour and protection. But soon after her arrival, on studying the genius of the nation and contemplating the consequences likely to ensue, the queen perceived the necessity of restricting her patronage almost entirely to the ladies of her adopted country. In this resolution she was most patriotically seconded by the king, who to render the disappointment less severe to her countrywomen of Mecklenburg, furnished her with a considerable sum of money, which was divided by way of indemnification amongst a numerous body of titled expectants, and, with the exception of Madame Schwellenberg, very little was heard of German attendants, the queen placing her entire confidence in English ladies of distinguished families. A pension was shortly afterwards granted to the court of Mecklenburg on the Irish establishment, which gave rise to a great deal of daily clamour, yet, when calmly and generously viewed, it must be regarded as an act less of profusion than of justice. The real facts were these : The duchy of Mecklenburg had suffered so much during the recent war, from the spoils of the Prussians, that for a considerable time the inhabitants were incapable of paying the usual taxes ; and many of those who farmed the ducal demesnes, from which the best part of the revenues of the duchy arises, were unable to pay either rent or taxes. In this state of impoverishment, a royal marriage was all that was wanting to complete the ruin of the ducal treasury. Five years' income at least of this little principality was required for the outfit of the royal bride, and the presents and entertainments provided with no unsparing hand on the occasion. Was a brother to suffer by a sister's elevation ? Was it fit that an event, calculated to illustrate his family, should at once prove its honour and its ruin ? His majesty felt all the force of these considerations, and

decided on them as became his honour and dignity.

The aspect of the political hemisphere at the close of 1761, was by no means propitious; the change in the administration naturally turned the tide of foreign operations, and the eyes of the whole country were directed to the measures, which the new administration would think proper to adopt in regard to Spain. The advice which Mr. Pitt and lord Temple had given to the king became the subject of parliamentary investigation; and lord Temple declared in the debate, that this advice was not founded upon *suspicion* only, although they had for several months suspected the views of Spain, and they would have been amply justified in giving that advice from the just grounds of their suspicions, but upon positive and authentic information of a treaty of alliance having been signed between France and Spain: on which lord Bute rose, and with astonishing confidence pronounced these words—"My lords, I affirm, *upon my honour*, that there was no intelligence of such a fact so constituted at that time."

This brought lord Temple up again, who affirmed also upon his honour, "That there was intelligence of the highest moment, that he was not at liberty to publish that intelligence in the house, but would refresh his lordship's memory in private." He beckoned lord Bute out of the house, and repeated to him the intelligence which had been laid before the cabinet. In this conference lord Bute found himself under the necessity of acknowledging that *he recollected it*.

A little time after Mr. Pitt's resignation, the ministry received a despatch from lord Bristol at Madrid, containing the following interesting information.

Escorial, November 2, 1761.

Two ships have lately arrived at Cadiz with very extraordinary rich cargoes from the West Indies. So that

all the wealth, that was expected from Spanish America is now safe in Old Spain.

The triumphs of the courts of London and Madrid over Mr. Pitt were now complete; the first in having compelled him to relinquish the direction of a war by which he had nearly crushed one branch of the house of Bourbon, and was ready to pour its thunders upon another; the latter in having supported the designs of his enemies, until that immense wealth was arrived which they knew he meant to have intercepted, and which, had he been permitted to accomplish, he must by a success of such immense importance at the beginning of the war, have speedily reduced Spain to the necessity of deprecating the rage of so potent and active an enemy. But to those few persons who were not duped by the artifices of the king's confidential servants, nor deceived by the hired writers of foreign and domestic enemies, these triumphs over a great minister were matters of the most sincere concern, regret, and anguish.

But whatever doubts might have remained on the minds of men, whose residences were remote from the source of information, respecting the propriety of Mr. Pitt's conduct relative to Spain, they were all dispelled by the declaration of war against that power, which Mr. Pitt's successors found themselves under the necessity of issuing on the second day of January 1762, although they postponed that important measure until the insults of the Spanish court had become so notorious, that even lord Bute confessed that they could be no longer concealed.

Thus came by constraint and without dignity, and what is worse than both, above three months after the opportunity had elapsed, that declaration of war, sneaking and as it were by stealth, which Mr. Pitt would have issued with

eclat in the previous month of August, and illumined with the splendor of his victories before the end of the year.

It must, however be admitted, that this declaration of war against Spain did not detract from that popularity which his majesty at this time enjoyed, and which was in a great degree established by his uniform attention to every thing which could promote the trade or commerce of the country. Actuated by the most patriotic views, his majesty commanded that the queen's birth-day should be celebrated on the 18th of January, as his own birth-day falling on the 4th of June, the year would be equally divided, and the trading interests thereby materially promoted. Accordingly on the 18th of January 1762, her majesty's first birth-day in England was celebrated with the greatest possible splendor. Their majesties received the compliments of the nobility, gentry, foreign ministers, &c., at their palace at St. James's, and the evening was concluded with every demonstration of joy. Amongst the numerous distinguished personages who were presented to her majesty on this occasion, was the celebrated lord Melcombe, better known by the name of Bubb Doddington. His lordship was no mean adept in the art of bowing, but whether on this important occasion he bowed too low, or he had been too negligent in equipping himself, is a matter of no great moment, but certain it is, that to the great discomfiture of the statesman, the band of his small-clothes gave way at a very critical moment, which obliged his lordship to support them with both his hands, and he retired from the royal presence, "bearing his blushing honors thick upon him." His lordship meeting his majesty a few days afterwards, began to apologize to him, but the king in the most good-natured manner interrupted him, saying, "Pooh! pooh! Dod-

dington, don't mention it—you managed it well—very well indeed, but remember you deduct for the band when you pay your tailor's bill."

On the 19th of January, the parliament met, and his majesty, in the following speech, exculpated himself from all blame in the Spanish war.

My lords and gentlemen,

I have so often assured you of my sincere disposition, to put an end to the calamities of war, and to restore the public tranquillity, on solid and lasting foundations, that no impartial person, either at home or abroad, can suspect me of unnecessarily kindling a new war in Europe. But, it is with concern, I acquaint you, that since your recess, I have found myself indispensably obliged to declare war against Spain. The causes are set forth in my public declaration on this occasion; and therefore I shall not detain you with the repetition of them.

My own conduct, since my accession to the throne, as well as that of the late king, my royal grandfather, towards Spain, has been so full of good-will and friendship; so averse to the laying hold of several just grounds of complaint, which might have been alleged; and so attentive to the advantages of the catholic king, and his family; that it was matter of the greatest surprise to me, to find, that engagements had, in this conjuncture, been entered into between that crown and France; and a treaty made, to unite all the branches of the house of Bourbon, in the most ambitious and dangerous designs against the commerce, and independency, of the rest of Europe; and particularly of my kingdoms.

Whatever colours may be endeavoured to be put upon these injurious proceedings of the court of Madrid, I have nothing to reproach myself with: and though I have left nothing untried, that could have prevented this rupture, I have thought it necessary to prepare against every event. I therefore rely on the Divine blessing on the justice of my cause; the zealous, and powerful, assistance of my faithful subjects, and the concurrence of my allies, who must find themselves involved in the pernicious, and extensive, projects of my enemies.

I leave these considerations with you, full of the justest confidence, that the honour of my crown, and the interests of my kingdoms, are safe in your hand

It was resolved that the war against Spain should be prosecuted with the utmost vigor, and the defence of Portugal was undertaken, but but without making any stipulations in behalf of our merchants which the opportunity so amply afforded, and who had presented several memorials to the courts of London and Lisbon, complaining of the injustice of the latter. So far from taking any notice of their complaints, lord Tyrawley was sent to Lisbon in the character of ambassador. He was, perhaps, the only gentleman in the British dominions, to whom that court, at another time, would have made an exception, but at this moment the court of Lisbon was under the necessity of being silent. Upon a former occasion lord Tyrawley had rendered himself particularly offensive at Lisbon, and he seems to have been selected on this occasion, certainly not from motives of friendship to that court, although it was the most favourable period for establishing every necessary stipulation with clearness and precision.

We are now approaching to that particular period of his majesty's life, when his domestic happiness was embittered by the scandalous reports which were raised respecting his illustrious mother and the earl of Bute, and the attempts which were consequently made to insult his majesty in the person of his mother. The print-shops were filled with caricatures of the dowager princess and his lordship, the latter of whom always appeared invested with a red petticoat, which was supposed to have been found under very suspicious circumstances. The press, which at this time could not boast of its purity, was employed to fan the indignation of the people, and one letter in particular appeared, entitled, "*A Letter to her R. H. the P. D. of W., with a word or two concerning L. B. and the talk of the world.*" with the following motto;

Hence have the talkers of this populous city
A shameful tale to tell for public sport.

These infamous vehicles of the most deliberate falsehood and calumny, were disseminated in every quarter where it was thought probable that they would come under the inspection of his majesty. His ears were continually assailed with the most illiberal abuse of his illustrious mother, and with the consciousness of its injustice, he was still necessitated to experience it from a deluded and credulous people. Every good subject saw with the utmost concern and indignation, the base and daring attempts which were made by men of low reputation and abilities to render contemptible and unpopular the character of their sovereign, and who took the advantage of a time for insulting his majesty, when the accumulated difficulties of government crowded upon the throne. How disagreeable a situation for a prince who then discovered how much his inexperience of public life, of the manners and passions of unreasonable and corrupt men, was unequal to his own intentions and integrity, and to the dictates of a heart overflowing with goodness to his own subjects and to all mankind. From the moment his majesty ascended the throne with the applause of all men, it was easy to foresee that the glory which his uncommon virtues spread over his diadem, must have its shades. Is it possible to destroy the doctrine of those pseudo politicians, that men being corrupted and wicked in general cannot be governed but upon corrupt and wicked principles, and not to expect a severe opposition to even the best of sovereigns. In such a case, the youth of a sovereign will naturally be made light of by men hackneyed in the ways of the world and grown stubborn in iniquity; his firmness and magnanimity will be represented as obstinacy, his frugality as sordidness; if he

employs his hours indefatigably in the high and laborious duties of his exalted station; if he neither breaks in upon the peace or property of any of his subjects for vicious gratifications of pleasure, or the dangerous views of ambition, but silently pursues one steady path of uncommon virtue, ardent to become a blessing to his own subjects, and to be the delight of mankind, that very conduct will produce the most malignant envy, even at the foot of the throne.

We have traced his majesty through the different relations of son, brother, and prince; in the former he fulfilled its most positive and essential duties, nor shrunk from them at the moment when every base and insidious method was adopted to blacken the fame of his illustrious mother. He stood as a rock against which all the calumniators and scandalmongers beat themselves in vain—he turned from them as he would from a serpent spreading its noxious guile, and spitting its feculent matter on the fairest blossoms of the earth. But the task which he had to perform was not only arduous but attended with peculiar delicacy. It is certain that the marriage of the king with a princess of the house of Mecklenburg was in itself wholly contrary to the wishes of the dowager princess of Wales, as her views of family aggrandizement extended solely to her own immediate connexions: she therefore regarded the queen as the object who had frustrated those views, and the foundation was thereby laid to that coolness and indifference which manifested themselves in the behaviour of the illustrious personages towards each other. This circumstance alone was the cause of particular grief to his majesty, who found his happiness in domestic life, and whose anxious endeavours were directed to establish harmony and concord in every branch of his family. The scandalous reports respecting the illus-

trious mother of his majesty, began at this time, to his great regret, to be received with rather too much pleasure in a certain quarter, and instead of checking and reprobating the poisonous tale-bearer, he was on the contrary welcomed and rewarded. It was in vain that his majesty attempted to prove that those reports were engendered by the virulence of party spirit, which sought to call down the popular odium upon the head of a minister, who, however strong his national partialities might have been, and however erroneous the line of politics which he had adopted, had yet ever shewn himself the tried and steady friend of the royal family. It was in vain that his majesty exposed the amiable features of his mother's character; her strict attention to her maternal duties, her love of domestic life, and her inviolable attachment to the most exalted virtues which dignify the human heart—all these bright parts of the picture, which his majesty pointed out with so much filial enthusiasm, were lost in the pale and sickening hue which the blighting breath of detraction threw over it; and all that remained for his majesty to do, was to wipe away the tears which fell from the eyes of his mother, at the gross and ungenerous attacks which were made upon her reputation. Much, however, as his majesty regretted the part which his consort adopted in regard to his mother, he was still doomed to experience an addition to that regret, by the arrival of the brother of her majesty, the prince of Mecklenburg Strelitz, which took place on the 23d of January; we will not however anticipate the course of events, but leave it to time to develop them.

In this year the British Museum was enriched by the munificence of his majesty, with a most valuable collection of thirty thousand tracts and pamphlets, relative to the history of England

during the civil wars. The whole were bound in two thousand volumes, of which one hundred chiefly on the royal side, were printed, but never published. This collection was commenced for the use of Charles I., by a clergyman of the name of Thomason, and was carried about England as the parliament army marched, kept in the collector's warehouses, disguised as tables covered with canvass, and at length lodged at Oxford under the care of Dr. Barlow, afterwards bishop of Lincoln. These tracts were subsequently offered to the library at Oxford, and were at last bought for Charles II. by his stationer, Samuel Mearke, whose widow endeavoured to dispose of them, by leave of the king, in 1684; but it is believed they continued unsold till George III. bought them of Mearke's representatives. In a printed paper it is said, that the collector refused four thousand pounds for them.

It has been already mentioned, that some difficulties existed as to a suitable residence for their majesties. The palace of St. James was falling fast to decay, Buckingham-house required great repairs, and Windsor-castle was actually in a state of delapidation. After due consideration, the little palace at Kew was adopted as the temporary residence of the royal pair, while the necessary repairs were made on Buckingham-house and Windsor-castle.

When the latter was put in a state fit for their reception, their majesties gave what is called a house-warming. The king shewed on this occasion his real kindness of disposition, by the activity which he displayed in making ready for his guests, exploring kitchen, store-rooms, and every apartment, to see that all was going on right, and that proper cheer was provided, not merely for the higher orders, but even for the soldiers in attendance. No host could receive all his visitors in a more friendly, familiar,

courteous, and hospitable manner. He had an abundance of civil things to say to every body—pithy observations to the men, and agreeable compliments to the ladies. He kept every one in a good humour, and always spared them the trouble of making long ceremonious answers.

The royal family dined at a separate table, a little elevated. This etiquette of a distinct table was kept up through the reign, though in some of the proudest courts of Europe it is by no means strictly adhered to. It was observed also when his majesty visited any of his subjects. He commenced the dignity of his habits early, and preserved it to the end. His predecessors of the Brunswick line were more familiar on this point, and court anecdotes mention the fears entertained by a certain German lady of the convivial effects of Sir Robert Walpole's punch on a monarch's conversation. Her fear by the way was not altogether unreasonable, for Sir Robert Walpole himself used to say, that he governed the king with good punch, and bad latin.

The love of punch was one of the faults of the old monarch, and formed a striking contrast with the extreme abstemiousness which distinguished his successor George the Third, who seldom indulged in more than a glass of weak wine at a time. When calling it a German fault, justice must at the same time be done to the German character by observing, that it is a fault of old date, and one from which in more recent times it has almost wholly redeemed itself. The queen was accustomed on this head to tell a pleasant anecdote, which the king took great pleasure in repeating. The duke of Mecklenburg, father of the queen, being once in familiar conversation with the late Pope, was asked by his holiness, whether his countrymen the Germans, continued to

drink as hard as they used to do? "Oh no," replied the duke, "the sottish custom is quite given over, except in the *ecclesiastical* electorates."

On February 8th, prince Galitzen had a private audience of his majesty, to notify the death of the late empress Elizabeth, and the accession of the emperor Peter III. to the throne of Russia, and to present his new credentials as envoy extraordinary from that prince. This circumstance although of no particular moment, occasioned a remark from his majesty, which showed his thorough acquaintance with the state of the principal courts of Europe. He was no sooner informed of the accession of Peter III. than he exclaimed—"Well, there are now nine of us in Europe, the third of our respective names;" and the following statement proves the truth of it:

1. George III. king of England.
2. Charles III. king of Spain.
3. Augustus III. king of Poland.
4. Frederick III. king of Prussia.
5. Charles Emanuel III. king of Sardinia.
6. Mustapha III. emperor of the Turks.
7. Peter III. emperor of Russia.
8. Francis III. duke of Modena.
9. Frederick III. duke of Saxe-Gotha.

The above circumstance never happened before in the annals of Europe.

In order to divert his mind from the contemplation of more serious subjects both domestic and political, his majesty continued to pay particular attention to the embellishment and improvement of his palaces, but he would on no account permit any of the venerable relics to be removed which either belonged to any of his illustrious predecessors, or which were commemorative of any particular fact of English history. The following is a striking

instance of this predilection on the part of his majesty for the antiques of his ancestors.

In the king's state bed-chamber at Windsor-Castle, formerly the public dining-room, there is an old-fashioned article of furniture within a recess, viz. the bed of queen Anne, of illustrious memory. Being highly valued, it has always been preserved with great care, a crimson curtain being drawn over it, and a screen interposed in front to guard it from the approach of idle curiosity. His majesty being solicited to permit a more magnificent bed to occupy its situation, answered, that he would not displace this venerable relic for the most splendid bed in the universe.

It was, however, not only to his own domestic comfort, but to that of every branch of his family, that his majesty's attention was at this time principally directed. Her royal highness the princess Amelia had long been desirous of a separate residence, and his majesty issued his commands that a suitable one should be purchased for her, which were in a short time fulfilled by the purchase of Gunnersbury-House, near Acton, for the sum of 9,000 guineas.

The limited knowledge of her majesty in the English language was one of the principal causes of the king at this time declining his visits to the theatre, although it was attributed by some of the venal scribblers of the day to a fear which existed in his majesty's mind, of exposing himself publicly in a theatre, on account of the illiberal attacks to which he would be subject from the populace, who now began openly to stigmatize his government with the epithet of the petticoat government, and and who, with a freedom bordering on licentiousness, took every opportunity of scandalizing his mother. As ungracious and unpleasant as these senseless vociferations of a factious people must have been to the ears of

his majesty, it is certain that they acted with very little force, nor was their influence scarcely perceptible upon his actions. He treated them with the contempt they deserved, and the only triumph which the illiberal party obtained, was the mere supposition, that the poison in which they dipped their arrows, was working in secret, although its effects did not openly display themselves.

There was, however, another circumstance which literally speaking drove his majesty from the theatre. The pompous pageant of the coronation was no sooner finished, than the two patent theatres resolved to display the procession upon the stage, and Rich and Garrick, the rival managers, vied with each other in the production of the gorgeous spectacle. The play of King John was at this time played at both houses, and it was commanded one night by his majesty at Drury-Lane, leaving the farce or entertainment to the choice and judgement of the manager. Garrick very injudiciously selected the Coronation, which to the eye of the sovereign must have appeared extremely tame and insipid. On this occasion, however, he was determined to outdo all his former outdoings, and opened the back of the stage into Drury-Lane, where a large bonfire was exhibited, with the people huzzaing and drinking. The stage in the mean time was honoured by a motley groupe of dukes, duchesses, archbishops and bishops, in full pontificalities, lords and ladies, citizens and their wives, decked in all the gorgeous trimmings of the theatrical wardrobe, some of whom were dressed in the costume of the time of Henry the VIIIth., with all the gradations of fashion down to the present period. Garrick, however, thought literally to astound the spectators with his bonfire, and also that he should receive his majesty's applause for this novel

proof of the excellence of his theatrical management; but unluckily on that evening a very dense fog hung over the metropolis, and the whole theatre in a short time became so filled with the fog and the smoke from the bonfire, that a duke was not distinguished on the stage from the humble citizen, and the annoyance became at last so intolerable, that his majesty was obliged to leave the theatre, and the audience soon after followed his example. The absurd exhibition of the bonfire was persevered in until the manager was obliged to relinquish it from the very best of all reasons, that no one would come to the theatre to run the risk of catching a cold, and to be driven from it by the smoke.

It is, however, singular that the harmony which had long subsisted between Garrick and Sheridan was dissolved in consequence of the opinion which his majesty expressed of their respective performance. Garrick was particularly jealous of Sheridan's success in King John, and especially when he was informed by a very intimate acquaintance, that the king was uncommonly pleased with that actor's representation of the part. This was a bitter cup, and to make the draught still more unpalatable, upon his asking whether his majesty approved his playing the Bastard, he was told without the least compliment paid to his action, it was imagined that the king thought the character was rather too bold in the drawing, and that the colouring was overcharged and glaring. Mr. Garrick who had been so accustomed to applause, and who of all men living, most sensibly felt the neglect of it, was greatly struck with the preference which his majesty had given to another, and which left him out of all consideration. Garrick would never permit the play to be acted afterwards, in consequence of this decision of his majesty.

On the 24th of March his majesty went in state to the house of peers, and gave the royal assent to several bills.

It is placed beyond all doubt, that the distracted state of the councils of the nation at this period imparted no common degree of concern to his majesty. The war was by no means unpopular, and yet, notwithstanding the British arms continued successful in every quarter of the world, it was the firm and unalterable resolution of the British cabinet to make peace with the utmost expedition. The first consideration of the noble lord who now guided the king's councils, was to reduce the king of Prussia to the necessity of concurring in his pacific disposition. For this purpose the subsidy, which according to treaty had been annually paid to Prussia, was this year refused, contrary to the most solemn engagements, and in direct breach of the national faith; not indeed by an open and manly negative in the first instance, but after an infinite number of promises of the money, and evasive answers to the Prussian resident in London, from the month of January to the month of May 1762. The cruelty of this sport in the British minister was embittered by the perilous situation of the king, surrounded by a host of enemies, and disappointed of the only assistance he had a right to estimate in his preparations for the succeeding campaign. However his good fortune did not abandon him, for in the same moment that Great Britain became his enemy, Russia became his friend. On the death of the empress Elizabeth, Peter III. immediately withdrew from the alliance against him, by which the design of the British cabinet in the refusal of the subsidy was not accomplished; but though not accomplished, it was not abandoned. As soon as it was known in London, that the emperor Peter III. was preparing to

withdraw himself from the alliance against the king of Prussia, the British cabinet immediately opened a negociation with the court of Petersburg, to prevent if possible a separate peace being made between the new emperor and the king of Prussia. In this negociation it was insinuated to the court of Petersburg, in very strong terms, that the British court would behold with great concern his imperial majesty withdrawing from his alliance with the empress queen, and recalling his armies from their co-operation with the troops of the house of Austria; that it was not the wish of the British court to see the house of Brandenburg aggrandized at the expense of the house of Austria. And, from an apprehension that this negociation might not be sufficient to answer the purpose, the plan of another negociation was formed, and the execution attempted by the most humiliating introduction. This was with the court of Vienna. To that haughty court, offers in the utmost degree degrading on the part of Great Britain were made. A renewal of the connexion between that court and Great Britain was solicited in terms of supplication. The most earnest assurances were made that the British cabinet never desired to see the power of Prussia encreased by a dimunition of the house of Austria, that on the contrary the British cabinet would rather see the power of Prussia revert to its primitive electoral state. And, to prevent any suspicion of dissimulation, this proposed alliance between Great Britain and Austria was further offered to be purchased by some *concessions* to be made in Italy or *elsewhere*. But the British court at this time had no authority to stipulate for any concessions to be made in Italy in behalf of the house of Austria, consequently the word *elsewhere*, a word of unlimited latitude, must have been meant to include any

country or territory to which the British influence either did or could extend; and it carries with it a great degree of probability, when we reflect for an instant on the disposition of the British cabinet at this time towards the king of Prussia, that this word *elsewhere* was intended to apply to some part of that monarch's dominions.

These acts of profound treachery were treated with contempt. The court of Vienna communicated them to the court of Petersburg, and by the last court, all the documents of both negotiations were communicated to the king of Prussia, which explains the cause of that coolness which subsisted between that monarch and the court of Great Britain, until within a short time of his death.

A third negotiation which was opened with the court of Turin was more successful; soliciting the interest of that court with the house of Bourbon to repose the most firm confidence in the pacific dispositions of the British cabinet, at the same time imploring his Sardinian majesty to become the mediator and umpire in all points of dispute. This was the second time that the house of Savoy had been authorized to dispose of the interests of Great Britain to the house of Bourbon. The first was at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, but this circumstance has been overlooked by the majority of historians. In this negotiation the British court was most liberal in its rewards; amongst others, the Sardinian ambassador in particular was gratified with a pension of 1,000*l*.

per annum upon Ireland for thirty-one years, commencing the 25th of March 1763, in the name of George Charles, esq.*

The reduced condition of France required no entreaty on the part of the court of Turin to induce her to accept the pacific assurances of the new British minister, but before the negotiation was publicly opened, lord Bute had avowedly assumed the character of prime minister. He had dismissed the duke of Newcastle and all his friends, and had established his omnipotence through every department of the state.

It will be necessary to say a few words on this dismissal of the duke of Newcastle, as it was reported at the time that it was effected more by the resolution of the king himself, than by political intrigue. It must be admitted that the duke of Newcastle was one of the most profuse and extravagant noblemen of his time, and during the latter years of George II., he might with propriety have been invested with the title of viceroy. The duke thought that the favour and confidence of two kings were a sufficient title to pretend to the same advantages under a young prince, though at the same time he would have refused him the liberty of choosing his own servants. On the accession of George III., the duke was retained in all his places, but the statement is not borne out by facts, that the dismissal of the duke arose from the displeasure which his majesty testified at his lavish expenditure of the public money. It was a charge which came with a very ill

* This circumstance was first mentioned in the house of commons of Ireland by Mr. Edmund Sexton Pery, afterwards lord Pery, on the 24th of November 1763, in the following remarkable words: "There is a pension, Sir, granted nominally to one George Charles, but really to count Viri, the Sardinian minister, for negotiating the peace that has just been concluded with the minister of France. I must confess, Sir, that in my opinion this service deserved no such recompense, at least on our part, so that in this case our money is not only granted to an alien, but to an alien who has no merit to plead. If it is thought a defensible measure, I should be glad to know why it was not avowed, and why if it is proper we should pay a thousand pounds a year to count Viri, we should be made to believe that we pay it to George Charles?"

grace indeed from the minister who succeeded him, as can be proved from the journals of the house of commons, by taking the account of the monies issued for the king's privy purse, and secret service, during the two last years of the reign of George II., and the two first of George III.

From October 1758 to October 1759.

To Edward Finch, Esq., for his majesty's privy purse, 36,000*l.*

For secret service during the same period 67,000*l.*

From October 1759 to October 1760.

To Edward Finch, Esq., for his majesty's privy purse, 36,000*l.*

For secret service during the same period 66,000*l.*

From October 1760 to October 1761.

To John earl of Bute, for his majesty's privy purse, 48,000*l.*

For secret service during the same period 95,000*l.*

From October 1761 to October 1762.

To John earl of Bute, for his majesty's privy purse, 48,000*l.*

For secret service during the same period 72,000*l.*

The actual fact was, that the dismissal of the duke had no reference whatever to the expenditure of the public money, but the duke had been so long accustomed to rule, and domineer over the sovereign in the formation of the different administrations, that his majesty became disgusted, and took the laudable resolution of freeing himself at once from a dependence so very injurious to majesty; and if the king had been more influenced by politics than inclination to prefer a nobleman who had been his tutor, it would not have been a motive sufficient to keep the duke from sounding the alarm, and declaring himself openly at the head of a faction, which had no other object but to obstruct the measures of the ministry. It reflects however, no common lustre upon the character of his late majesty, when it is considered that he never allowed his political attachments nor

dislikes to have the slightest influence upon his personal feelings, and this was particularly exemplified in the case of the duke of Newcastle. It was well known to his majesty, that the duke from his extravagant mode of life, had greatly impoverished himself, and he was also well aware that a considerable portion of the duke's property had been expended in the service of the state. It was an unvaried feature in the character of his majesty, never to allow a faithful servant of the state to suffer by the services which he had rendered, and therefore, although he dismissed the duke from his councils, he offered him a pension of 4,000*l.* a year. This was nobly refused by the duke, who said, "that if he could no longer be permitted to serve his country, he was, however, determined not to be a burthen to it."

Lord Bute now became first lord of the treasury, appointing Mr. Grenville his successor in the secretary of state's office. His lordship recalled his brother from Turin, and when he appeared at the levee, his majesty used the remarkable expression, "*I have now a second friend here.*" This was certainly no mean compliment to lord Bute, and there were many present who found it a most bitter pill to swallow.

Lord Anson dying about this time, the admiralty was offered to lord Halifax, who at first refused it, because he wished to be secretary of state, upon which lord Bute told him he did not know what he refused, for that in patronage it was next to the treasury. Lord Halifax then accepted it, and in the *Fables for Grown Gentlemen*, published at this time, this circumstance is humorously described as follows:

Close by a kitchen fire, a dog and cat,
Each a famous politician,
Were meditating as they sat,
Plans and projects of ambition.

By the same fire were set to warm,
 Fragments of their master's dinner;
 Temptations to alarm
 The frailty of a sinner.
 Clear prurient water stream'd from Pompey's jaws,
 And Tabby look'd demure, and lick'd her paws;
 And as two Plenipo's
 For fear of a surprise,
 When both have something to propose,
 Examine one another's eyes;
 Or like two maids, though smit by different swains,
 In jealous conference o'er a dish of tea,
 Pompey and Tabby both cudgel'd their brains,
 Studying each other's physiognomy.
 Pompey endow'd with finer sense,
 Discover'd in a cast of Tabby's face,
 A symptom of concupiscence,
 Which made it a clear case.
 When straight applying to the dawning passion,
 Pompey addressed her in this fashion:
 Both you and I, with vigilance and zeal,
 Becoming faithful dogs, and pious cats,
 Have guarded day and night this commonweal
 From robbery and rats,
 All that we get for this, heaven knows,
 Is a few bones and many blows;
 Let us no longer fawn and whine,
 Since we have talents and are able,
 Let us impose an equitable fine
 Upon our master's table;
 And, to be brief,
 Let us each choose a single dish,
 I'll be contented with roast beef,
 Take you that turbot—you love fish.
 Thus every dog and cat agrees,
 When they can settle their own fees.
 Thus two contending chiefs are seen,
 To agree at last in every measure;
 One takes the management of the marine,
 The other of the nation's treasure.

In the midst of the din of war, the intrigue of faction, and the political disputes of party rage, his majesty found his chief solace in the promotion of the arts and sciences, and in the encouragement of indigent merit. The following extract from a letter written by a celebrated virtuoso and antiquary at Rome, evinces the

refined taste which his majesty entertained for literature and the arts. It was written in 1762.

Nothing gives me more satisfaction than to find so many fine things purchased for the king of Great Britain. He is now master of the best collection of drawings in the world, having purchased two or three capital collections in this city; the last, belonging to cardinal Albanus, for 14,000 crowns, consists of 3,000 large volumes, one third of which are original drawings of the best masters; the others, collections of the most capital engravings. And lately there has been purchased for his majesty all the museum of Mr. Smith, at Venice, consisting of his library, prints, drawings, designs, &c. I think it is highly probable that the arts and sciences will flourish in Great Britain, under the protection and encouragement of a monarch, who is himself an excellent judge of merit in the fine arts.

It is a fact worthy of being recorded, that one of the first Bibles which was ever published in numbers, with an exposition and paraphrase of all the difficult passages by way of notes, was dedicated by the Rev. John Butley to his majesty in the year 1761, by his most gracious permission. The following is the dedication, and it may be recorded as an undeniable proof of the liberality which pervaded his majesty's mind, on all matters connected with religion:

To the king's most sacred majesty.

Sire,

There never was an age wherein a thirst after Christian knowledge more universally prevailed, than the present. The variety of publications on religious subjects, the crowded assemblies in every place of public worship, and the large increase and multiplicity even of sectaries, every day starting up, are undeniable evidences of this truth.

Willing to embrace this singular opportunity, and desirous of attempting, among others, something for the common good; (assured also of your majesty's most pious regard for our true and perfect religion, so evident in your royal declaration and example), I have presumed to lay at your feet the subsequent annotations on that most valuable of all volumes, that inestimable treasure of knowledge, that never failing source of religion, private

as well as public, temporal as well as eternal, the Holy Bible.

May the divine wisdom be your majesty's guide, and the arm of the Almighty your support! may the work of God prosper in your hands! and may your majesty be made a blessed instrument of protecting and advancing the truth!

Under the auspices of your majesty's reign, may devotion and piety, justice and charity, with all other virtues, so flourish among us, that they may be the stability of our times, and make this church and nation a praise in the earth!

That the King of Kings may shower down his choicest blessings on your majesty, and your royal consort, is the unceasing prayer of, Sire,

Your majesty's most obedient,

And most dutiful subject,

JOHN BUTLEY.

At this time the sermons of that profoundly learned divine, Dr. Barrow, constituted the favourite theological work of our late excellent sovereign; who made it a rule to read a portion of them regularly in his family every Sunday evening. Sometimes his majesty would, with a pencil, mark the divisions of the sermons, which are exceedingly long, which he intended to read; and thus the entire collection, with little variation, lasted the year round.

It was, however, not only to the individuals themselves, but to the families of scientific and literary men, that his majesty extended his bounty. He was no sooner informed of the death of Mr. Simpson, professor of mathematics at the Royal Academy of Woolwich, which took place in May, 1762, than he was immediately pleased to grant to his widow and daughter a handsome salary for their joint and separate lives. It was thus, that this amiable monarch by his munificence, made the heart of the widow to rejoice, and restored to the sons of deceased merit, those means of subsistence which died with the genius of their father.

But his majesty was not only the patron of mathematical science in others, but he devoted many of his leisure hours to the study of geometry and mechanics in general; and Mr. Lyle, the celebrated mathematician of his day, was employed to construct the mathematical instruments. On two of them which he invented for the express use of his majesty, are the following inscriptions. Upon the first, which was for describing all kind of spiral curves, such as scrolls, volutes, lines of beauty, &c.

OPT. MAX. Q. PRINCIPI.
GEORGIO III. DEI. GRATIA.

MAG. BRIT. FR. ET. HIB.
REGI. ETC.

HOC INSTRUMENTUM.

OMNIUM SPIRAS GEOM. DESCRIBENDO
PRIMUM ET FUNDAMEN.

D. D. D.

INVENTOR

SUÆMAJ. SUBJ. FIDELISS.

D. LYLE.

A. D. CIOICCLX.

And on that for describing ellipses;

REG. ET. REGIN. BRIT. GEORGIO. III. ET
CHARLOTTÆ.

OPT. MAX. INVICT. Q. PRINCIPP.

S. E. M. F. D. LYLE. INV. HOC. PRIM.

D. D. A. D. CIOICCLXII.

A chapter of the most noble order of the garter was summoned to meet on the 27th of May, for the purpose of filling up the vacant stalls, and the knights companions, with the other officers of the order, in their mantles, attended the sovereign in his own apartment, and being called over by garter, the procession took place to the great council chamber. The election fell upon his royal highness prince William and the earl of Bute, and they were invested accordingly with the insignia of the order, accompanied with the usual ceremonies.

The 29th of May being the anniversary of

the restoration of king Charles II., the same was observed at court as a high festival: his majesty received the compliments of the nobility, and the knights companions of the Garter, Bath, and Thistle, wore the collars of their respective orders; the following day being Sunday, their majesties attended divine worship, when an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. John Thomas. The earl of Cardigan carried the sword of state. After the sermon, the king and queen received the communion. There was no drawing room at St. James's, it being his majesty's decided determination to abolish the holding of drawing-rooms on a Sunday.

On the 22d of May their majesties took possession of Buckingham-house, and slept there for the first time. It was henceforth called the Queen's-house, and, with a view of encouraging the literature of the country, his majesty resolved to spare no expense in establishing at Buckingham-house, one of the most splendid libraries, of which this country can boast. He immediately consulted some of the most celebrated bibliographers of that time, who were well acquainted with the quarters from which the most scarce and valuable books were to be obtained, but although his majesty was fully convinced of the truth of the observation, that there is no book so bad from which some knowledge cannot be extracted, yet the intrinsic value of a book, was, in his opinion, to be determined only by its utility; and although he had no objection to the possession of a Caxton or an Elzivir, yet he never could persuade himself that the value of a book was to be estimated by the name of the printer. A celebrated collector once waited upon his majesty, and in a pompous strain en-

larged upon the value of a De Worde, which he had purchased expressly for the king's library, at an enormous price. His majesty listened to him apparently with great attention, and taking the book in his hand, inquired, in a very expressive manner, who was the binder of the book? The collector declared his ignorance; "Tis a pity, a very great pity," said his majesty, "but go—go and find it out, and then I may perhaps afford to pay you the price you ask." His majesty was, indeed, always particularly happy in his answers to those who shewed a disposition to overreach him, or who considered themselves privileged by his exalted rank to demand an exorbitant price for their articles. His majesty having at one time purchased a horse, the dealer put into his hands a large sheet of paper completely written over. "What is this?" asked the king; "the pedigree of the horse which your majesty has just bought," the dealer answered. "Take it back, take it back," said the king, laughing, "it will do just as well for the next horse you sell."

His majesty's chief amusement indoors was music, and that of the highest character for grandeur and sublimity of composition; by which he not only gratified a well-tuned ear, but exalted his devotional feeling. He had however, very little relish for the meretricious bravuras of the Italian stage, and still less for the fantastic and distorted movements of its ballets; he saw no beauty in the ghastly grin of an Italian love-making Adonis, nor any grace in the whirligig jumps and flourishes of his heels*. Neither the music, nor the show, nor the circled splendors of his nobility, and still less the lateness of the hours, had attraction sufficient to claim his evenings, or interfere with the regularity of

* When the late bishop of London issued his anathemas against the short petticoats and drawers of the opera dancers, his majesty said, "It was well done,—well done of the bishop, but as a divine, he ought to have directed his view to higher things."

his habits. But he loved with all his heart to go and enjoy an English play as often as he could make it convenient. Here he was quite at home; an English king in the midst of his subjects of all ranks and classes, partaking of the common amusement, and sharing in the universal pleasure. But here, while he relaxed his state to exhilarate his humanity, he could not command exemption from the sneers or the sarcasms of some would-be Spartan patriot, or some witty disappointed political critic. It was more than insinuated that the king of Great Britain ordered too frequently the representation of light and frivolous productions, and appeared to enjoy the tricks and fooleries of a pantomime with the glee of a schoolboy or holiday playgoer. Whimsical transformations, and such deceptions as Follett the clown swallowing a carrot four or five yards long, shook the sides of majesty itself with hearty laughter. This circumstance gave rise to one of the most humorous caricatures which appeared at this time. His majesty was represented with a huge spying-glass, standing in the box at the theatre, and directing it towards Follett in the act of swallowing the carrot. His majesty's

countenance had all the expression of wonder and astonishment, and the projection of his body declared the extreme eagerness with which his majesty enjoyed the deception of the clown; the caricature was entitled "Royal Amusements." It was, however, well known to all above the lower classes, that the king took great delight in the serious drama; that he was a reader and an admirer of Shakespeare, and that he several times sent for Mrs. Siddons to the Queen's House, to recite tragic passages before the royal family. The truth is manifest, that he went purposely to indulge in that broad open cheerfulness and mirth, English all over, which he could not find in the private chambers, or the tapestried saloons of a palace. He went to refresh his spirits, and to excite his merriment. In the same way he amused himself at the *fêtes-champêtres* at Frogmore, with Dutch fairs, and a little company of actors, well enough remembered by Munden and Bannister*, and where he particularly noticed Elliston. One advantage resulted from his visits to the theatre—he became as well known to all his metropolitan subjects as their next door neighbour.

* Being once in company with Dr. Walcot, the celebrated Peter Pindar, the conversation after dinner turned upon what the Doctor was pleased to call them, the eccentricities of the king. On this subject, as it might be naturally supposed, he was inexhaustible, and I remember one anecdote which he related of his majesty and Bannister, for the truth of which however I cannot pledge myself. It was at the time when the volunteer corps were formed, and Bannister being once at Windsor, his majesty accosted him in his usual hasty manner, "Eh! Bannister, they tell me you are a volunteer." "Yes, please your majesty," the comedian answered. "Very good, very good," said the affable monarch. "Have you been well drilled," asked the king. "I am not yet perfect," said Bannister. "I'll drill you, I'll drill you," said his majesty, placing the wondering comedian at the edge of a gravel walk, bordered with grass. The comedian was commanded to march, which he began to perform, his majesty standing by like a drill serjeant, and instead of crying out right, left, right, left, he exclaimed, "Grass, gravel, grass, gravel, grass, gravel," and the most difficult part which the comedian had here to perform, was the retention of his laughter.

Another anecdote was related by the Doctor at the same time. His majesty kept a particular account of the quantity of milk which a noted breed of cows yielded, and the quantity being once very small, he inquired the reason of it. He was answered, that the geese had been turned into the field with the cows. "Aye, aye," said his majesty, turning quickly away, "The geese have sucked the cows, the geese have sucked the cows."

Perhaps both these anecdotes have the same foundation in truth as the story of the mouse-trap, but they were related by the Doctor with that high degree of caustic humour, for which he was so remarkable.

On the 2d of June his majesty went to the house of peers, and after giving the royal assent to sixty-seven public and private bills, he was graciously pleased to express himself to the two houses of parliament in the following terms :

My lords and gentlemen,

The public business for which you were assembled, being now happily concluded, the advanced season of the year calls upon me to put an end to this session of parliament, which I cannot do, without expressing the highest approbation of the zeal, unanimity, and despatch, which have so signally appeared in the course of your proceedings.

At the opening of this session I informed you that it had been my earnest wish to restore the blessings of peace to my people ; but that it was my fixed resolution, with your concurrence and support, to carry on the war in the most effectual manner, till that desired object could be obtained upon equitable and honourable conditions. My sentiments in both these respects continue invariably the same, and I have the satisfaction to find them confirmed by the unanimous voice of my parliament.

The declaration which motives of humanity have engaged the emperor of Russia to make to all the courts in that alliance, and the great and happy change in the situation of my ally the king of Prussia, give us just reason to hope, that the other belligerent powers may be induced to entertain the same pacific dispositions. On the other hand, our rupture with Spain, notwithstanding my utmost endeavours to prevent it, and the violent and unprovoked attack with which the dominions of my ancient ally the king of Portugal are threatened, sufficiently evince the wisdom and necessity of that firmness and resolution in my parliament, which have enabled me to continue our military operations without the least interruption or delay ; and considerably to augment my fleets and armies in those parts, in which our enemies can be most sensibly distressed. The signal success of my arms in the conquest of Martinico, and the acquisition of many other valuable settlements in the West-Indies, have, under the blessing of God, been the happy consequences of these measures. I trust in the Divine Providence that they will be attended with still farther advantages,

until the powers at war with us shall be disposed to such terms of accommodation, as the dignity and just rights of my crown, the future security and commercial interests of my subjects, will permit me to accept.

Gentlemen of the house of commons,

When I consider the ample supplies which you have granted, I cannot but lament the heavy burdens which the necessities of the public service have obliged you to impose upon my people. From this consideration, I have endeavoured in every instance, to restrain my demands within as narrow bounds as the difficulties in which I found myself involved would allow. From the same motive, my utmost care shall be employed to exert the most exact economy, consistent with the safety of my kingdoms, and the good faith and honour of my crown.

I return you my particular thanks, for the proof which you have given of your regard to me and my family, in the ample provision you have made for the queen ; whose virtues and affection to this country, will, I am confident, be found to deserve it.

My lords and gentlemen,

I have the fullest persuasion, that you will continue to diffuse in your several counties that spirit of concord, which you have yourselves so steadily exerted in parliament : and you may be assured that I will, on my part, return your zeal and affection for my person and government, by a constant attention to whatever may contribute to the ease of my subjects ; and, that it is my ardent wish to found the glories of my reign on the union of my people, and on the welfare and prosperity of these my kingdoms.

The 4th being his majesty's birth-day, it was celebrated with the usual demonstrations of joy ; at St. James's, an extremely numerous and splendid court was held, where their majesties received the compliments of the nobility, foreign ministers, and gentry. Some most curious and magnificent fireworks were let off on Tower-Hill, in honour of the day. They took up a square of sixty yards each way, and in the centre was a beautiful and lofty column, on which was painted Britannia leaning on a shield, a trophy of war, and on each side *Vivant Rex et Regina*. Bow bells, which are

adjudged to be one of the finest peals in England, were rung for the first time this day. At noon was performed before their majesties and the royal family, the following ode, written by William Whitehead, esq., poet-laureat, and set to music by Dr. Boyce, master of the king's band of musicians. The vocal parts by Mr. Beard, the gentlemen and children of the Chapel Royal, &c., the instrumental by his majesty's band, assisted by other principal performers.

Ode for his Majesty's Birth-Day, June 4, 1762.

STROPHE.

“ Go Flora (said th' impatient queen
Who shares great Jove's eternal reign)
Go breathe on yonder thorn :
Wake into bloom th' emerging rose,
And let the fairest flower that blows
The fairest month adorn !
Sacred to me that month shall rise,
Whatever contests shake the skies
To give that month a name :
Her April buds let Venus boast,
Let Maia range her painted host,
But June is Juno's claim.

ANTISTROPHE.

And, goddess know, in after times
(I name not days, I name not climes)
From Nature's noblest throws
A human flower shall glad the earth,
And the same month disclose his birth
Which bears the blushing rose.
Nations shall bless his mild command,
And fragrance fill th' exulting land
Where'er I fix his throne”—
Britannia listen'd as she spoke,
And from her lips prophetic broke
“ That flower shall be my own !”

EPODE.

O goddess of connubial love,
Thou sister, and thou wife of Jove,
To thee the suppliant voice we raise !
We name not months, we name not days,
For, where thy smiles propitious shine,
The whole prolific year is thine.

Accordant to the trembling strings

Hark, the general chorus swells !

From ev'ry heart it springs,

On every tongue it dwells.

Goddess of connubial love,

Sister thou, and wife of Jove,

Bid the genial powers, that glide

On æther's all-pervading tide,

Or from the fount of life that stream

Mingling with the solar beam,

Bid them here, at Virtue's shrine,

In chastest bands of union join ;

Till many a George, and many a Charlotte prove,

How much to thee we owe, queen of connubial love !

The mayor and aldermen of the city of Gloucester presented to their majesties, on this day, a large cup and cover in paste, with some fine lamprey eels richly potted in the cup ; it being an annual custom to present the same, by which that city holds its charter.

In discussing every question of importance relating to the public interests, too much candour cannot be exerted, nor too much moderation consulted in separating the grounds of popular discontent. It is highly useful to distinguish the sovereign from his servant, and the people from the dependents of a particular faction, and to inquire whether an opposition be formed against the man, or directed against the measures. It is very unhappy both for the prince and people, that the latter are accustomed to make few such necessary distinctions, but to look upon the immediate servant of the crown as the only person amongst the general servants of the king and the people, to whom they are to place the whole account of the good and evil of government. Men, therefore, factiously disposed and interested in a change of administration have little else to do, in order to to effect it, than to render the immediate agent of the sovereign ridiculous and unpopular by false accusations and reports, or by invidious distinctions. The pages of history are full of

examples of this kind, and indeed our constitution seems to favour some licentiousness of this sort. It is true that all attacks, within doors and without, upon the minister, as he is called, do not affect the safety of the sovereign; but they prevent him from doing all the good he intends, and deprive him of every means of carrying on the ordinary business of his government, unless he will lean on a party for it; which, whenever it is the case, is sure to seize upon every post in the state to stand between the king and the people, till both are subdued by the power of an oligarchy; and, in such a crisis it has been always found that the enemies of the nation however fallen and distressed, have obtained hopes, time, and at length vigor, to avail themselves of the weakness of a divided government.

These reflections have been excited by the appearance at this time of a host of political pamphlets, some of a truly Machiavelian class, and which had a tendency to revile and call into contempt not only the government but the monarch himself. The Monitor, the Auditor, the Patriot, the Fumbler, the Trimmer, the Briton, and though last not least the celebrated North Briton, vied with each other in crimination and recrimination of the leaders of the party which they severally espoused, and in some of which his majesty participated in the common abuse which was so profusely lavished at their hands. In no period of English history did the press manifest its power in a more striking manner than in the first years of the reign of George III. It was, indeed, as Mr. Pitt once happily designated it, "A chartered libertine;" its effects were felt upon the throne and in the cottage; talents of the very first order were called into action, and they spread around them an influence, which like an overwhelming tide appeared to carry every thing

before it; the pen was dipped in calumny's blackest gall, and its poison disseminated itself through all ranks of people; the peace of the most noble and virtuous families was destroyed, and the motions of the complex machinery of government were not only retarded, but in many instances wholly stopped. His majesty watched those proceedings with regret, he beheld the internal peace of the country destroyed, and every day some addition was made to the pyre on which its most dear and valued interests would be consumed. It was, however, a great misfortune for his majesty, that his minister at this period, although in many respects a virtuous and well-intentioned man, possessed neither vigor, firmness, nor decision enough, to take the helm of public affairs at a time, when intestine broils and foreign wars endangered the very integrity of the nation. His majesty, however, determined not to yield to the storm, but to bear proudly up against it, and in a short time he exhibited the noble instance of what a monarch can perform, when he lives in the hearts and affections of his people.

A queen consort is one of the principal instruments by which Providence may either defeat or perpetuate the succession in the house of Hanover; should the royal nuptials not happen to be favored by Heaven, and remain unproductive of issue, the security of our happy establishment would in time begin to be precarious, and every Briton would be alarmed for our civil and religious liberty. New provisions would be necessary to be made by parliament, and eventually the nation might be obliged to entrust the constitution to new comers, wholly unacquainted with our laws, our language, and our manners. It is true, the experiment might be made with success equal to that which attended the confidence reposed

in his late majesty's royal ancestors ; but it need not be mentioned what an unhappy state of uncertainty this would be, and the disadvantages of being governed by a king who must himself be governed, and as it were led blind-fold, are obvious to every imagination. A queen, therefore, whose conjugal felicity is crowned with a numerous offspring; gives the people of England new guardians of their liberties, and raises fresh bulwarks round the Constitution in church and state. She does more for our protection than all our ministers, and all our wars have done for several years past. Whilst the legislature is embellishing and fortifying the state with salutary laws, she provides for the execution and preservation of them. She gives the best assurance to the present age, that our posterity will continue to enjoy the invaluable blessings which we feel at present, and, like ourselves, be ruled by kings *born and educated in this country*.

The relations in which his majesty had hitherto stood, had been filled with all the virtues which could adorn them, insomuch that he stood distinguished as an amiable son, brother, nephew, friend, husband, and king, and we have now to view him in the endearing relation of father.

On the 12th of August, at twenty-four minutes after seven o'clock, her majesty was brought to bed of a prince, after being in labour somewhat above two hours. Her majesty found herself unwell about two o'clock, and at three notice was sent to her royal highness the princess of Wales, that the queen was not well ; upon which her royal highness hastened to St. James's, and was there by four o'clock. About five, orders were sent to the great officers of state to attend, and there were present the duke of Devonshire, the duke of Rutland, the archbishop of Canterbury, the lords Hardwick, Huntingdon,

Talbot, Halifax, Bute, Masham, and Cantalupe, and all the ladies of the bed-chamber, and the maids of honour. The queen was delivered by Mrs. Draper : Dr. Hunter was in waiting, in case of his help being wanted. The archbishop was in the room ; and the lords in a room adjoining, with the door open into the queen's apartment.

It is something remarkable, that his royal highness was born on the anniversary of his illustrious family's accession to the imperial throne of these kingdoms, and about the hour of the day on which that accession took place ; for queen Anne died on a Sunday morning, at about half an hour after seven o'clock, being the first of August, 1714, O.S., so that it was forty-eight years, almost to a minute, since George I. acceded to the throne.

The person who waited on the king with the news of her majesty being delivered of a prince, received a present of a 500*l.* bank bill.

This great and important news was immediately made known to the town, by the firing of the Tower guns ; and the privy-council being assembled as soon as possible thereupon, it was ordered, " That a form of thanksgiving for the queen's safe delivery of a prince, should be prepared by his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, to be used within the bills of mortality on the Sunday following, and throughout the king's dominions the Sunday after the respective ministers shall receive the same."

The following Sunday his majesty attended divine service at the Chapel Royal, when the following anthem, composed by Dr. Nares, on account of the birth of a young prince, was performed before the king.

O clap your hands together, all ye people.
O sing with the voice of melody.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God !
O sing praises unto our king.

Lo children, and the fruit of the womb, are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.

Like as the arrows in the hand of a giant, even so are the young children.

Happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them. He shall not be ashamed when he speaketh with his enemies in the gate.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed, that feareth the Lord. *Hallelujah.*

The common-council of the city of London were also summoned to meet at Guildhall, on the occasion of her majesty's happy delivery; and a few days after, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, went in great state to St. James's, and being admitted into the presence chamber; the following address was delivered to his majesty:

Most gracious sovereign,

We your majesty's ever dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of your city of London, in common-council assembled, humbly beg leave to embrace this earliest opportunity of congratulating your majesty upon the safe and happy delivery of the queen, and the auspicious birth of a prince.

So important an event, and upon a day ever sacred to liberty, and these kingdoms, fills us with the most grateful sentiments of the Divine goodness, that has thus early crowned your majesty's domestic happiness, and opened to your people, the agreeable prospect of permanence and stability to the blessings they derive from the wisdom and steadiness of your majesty's victorious reign.

May the same gracious Providence soon restore your majesty's most amiable and beloved consort, and give perfect health, and length of days to the royal infant.

Long, very long, may your majesty live, the guardian and protector, the ornament and delight of Great Britain; and, by your instructions and example, form the mind of your royal son, to the government of a free, brave, and generous people: and in the fullness of time, may that son succeed to the virtues, as well as to the throne, of his royal father; and preserve, for a long succession of years, the glory, happiness, and prosperity of his country.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

I receive with the greatest pleasure, these very affectionate expressions of your duty and attachment to me, and to my family; and thank you for your congratulations upon an event so interesting to me, and to the future welfare of my people, with which my own happiness, upon this and every occasion, is inseparably connected. The city of London may always depend upon my constant favour and protection.

A prince was no sooner born than the prolific fry of poetasters emerged from their hiding-places, and in every newspaper and magazine appeared odes, sonnets, and rhyming addresses, to the king and queen, and infant son; and many of the poets soared so astonishingly high, that they lost themselves in the misty regions of nonsense and bombast. We will merely give the close of one of their elaborate productions, as it is a convincing proof, that when a poet pleases, he can hurl the planets from their spheres, and make the gods of Heaven manufacturers of caudle, wherewith to aliment an earthly prince.

Long has each poet with peculiar care,
Wrought deathless laurels for a monarch's heir;
Prophetic steer'd the royal infant's name
Down time's smooth current to eternal fame;
And stripp'd each honour from the mighty dead,
To weave immortal fillets for his head;
Back from their spheres the planets have been hurl'd,
To mark his entrance on a wond'ring world;
Descending gods were happy when he smil'd,
And throng'd with pride to sugar-sop the child.

One of the first steps which his majesty adopted on the birth of the young prince was, to order letters patent to pass under the great seal, for creating his royal highness the prince of Great Britain, prince of Wales, and earl of Chester. As an erroneous opinion prevails, that the eldest son of the king is born prince of Wales, the following historical account of the

titles of such princes of Wales as were born whilst their fathers were upon the throne, will not only elucidate this interesting subject, but remove every doubt as to the claim of the son of the king to the title of prince of Wales by mere descent.

All potentates highly advance in the eyes of their subjects, their heirs apparent, and confer upon them very high and eminent titles of honour. The heir of the Romans was called Cæsar, and Princeps Juventutis, as the principal of all their hopes in their posterity. The heir of the French nation is honoured with the name of Dauphin, &c., and, in like manner, the heir to the crown of England has the title of Prince of Wales. Next to his father, he is chief in the realm, and, by course of the civil law, is to sit at his right hand in all solemn assemblies of state and honour; but he has no kingly prerogative by the laws of Britain, in the life of his father; but acknowledges a reverence, not only as to a father, but also as to his sovereign, and to that purpose, continues that motto, *ICH DIEN, I serve.*

By a statute of the 25th of Edward III., chap. 2, it is declared, "That to compass or imagine the death of the king's eldest son and heir, is *Crimen læsæ Majestatis*, high treason; as also to violate the wife of the king's eldest son."

Sir William Segar saith, he is stiled *Princeps, quia principalis in strenuitate post regem*. Since the Union his title is, *Magnæ Britannię Princeps*. He is born duke of Cornwall; and immediately intitled to all the rights, revenues, &c. belonging thereto, as being deemed in law at full age on his birth-day. He is afterwards (at the pleasure of the king) created prince of Wales, at which time he is presented before the king in his surcoat, cloak, and mantle of crimson velvet, and girt with a belt of the same, when

the king putteth a cap of crimson velvet, indented and turned up with ermine, and a coronet on his head, as a token of principality; and the king also putteth into his hand a verge of gold, the emblem of government, and a ring of gold on his middle finger, to intimate that he must be a husband to his country, and a father to her children. To him are likewise given and granted letters patent, to hold the said principality, to him and his heirs, kings of England, by which words the separation of this principality is for ever prohibited. His revenues, as duke of Cornwall, are computed at 14,000*l.* per annum. The revenues of the principality were estimated above 300 years ago, at 4,680*l.* per annum.

His mantle, which he wears at the coronation, is doubled below the elbow with ermine, spotted diamond-wise; but the robe which he wears in parliament is adorned with five bars or guards of ermine, set at an equal distance one from the other, with a gold-lace above each bar. The coronet placed on his head at his creation (as above) is of gold, and consists of crosses-patee, and fleurs-de-lis, with the addition of one arch, and in the midst a ball and a cross, as hath the royal diadem, which was solemnly ordered to be used by a grant dated February 9, 1660-61, the 11th of Charles II.

King Edward I. having reduced Wales, by a statute made the 12th of his reign, united it to the crown of England; but perceiving that the Welch had no affection to be ruled by strangers, he so ordered, that Eleanor his queen, on the 25th of April 1284, was delivered of a son in Caernarvon-castle, in North Wales; and then the said king called together the barons of Wales, and demanding if they would be content to subject themselves to one of their own natives, that could not speak one word of

English, and against whose life they could take no just exception, they readily consented, and having sworn to yield obedience, he nominated this new-born son, whom, in his charter the 24th of March 1305, and 33d year of his reign, he stiled prince of Wales, being the first of the sons and heirs apparent of the kings of England that bore that title.

Edward, eldest son of king Edward III., was born the 15th of June, 1330, and in the parliament held at Westminster, the 11th of his reign, was created duke of Cornwall, by a charter bearing date the 17th of March, 1338, and invested by the sword only; this being the first precedent for the creation of the title of a duke with us in England; and from this prince Edward, the dukedom of Cornwall hath ever since slept in the crown; for the eldest son and heir apparent of the king of England is duke of Cornwall by birth.

Duke Edward was likewise created prince of Wales by his father, in the parliament held at Pontefract, anno 1342, the 16th of his reign, by letters patent, dated the 18th of March the same year; as also created earl of Chester and Flint; and was invested in the principality of Wales, with these ensigns of honour, viz., a chaplet of gold, made in the manner of a garland, a gold ring, and a verge, rod, or scéptre of silver; and, for the better support of his estate as prince of Wales, granted him several lands, particularly enumerated in a writ, to be delivered to this prince, or his attorney, with this dignity.

In the sixteenth year of his age, this prince (commonly distinguished by the name of the black prince, from the black armour he used to wear) accompanied the king, his father, into France, where, at his landing, he received the honour of knighthood from that martial king's hands; and at the battle of Cressy, which was

fought on the 26th of August, 1346, leading the van-guard, he there slew John of Luxemburgh, king of Bohemia, and then deplumed his casque of those ostrich-feathers, which, in memory of this victory, became his cognisance; sometimes using one feather, sometimes three, as appeareth by his seals, and on his tomb, with scrolls containing this motto, *Ich Dien*, which, in the German or old Saxon language, signifies *I serve*; alluding to the words of the Apostle, "that the heir, whilst he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant;" and these feathers and motto have been ever since borne by our princes of Wales, with the addition by the more modern kings of an open coronet (in which the three feathers are stuck), and, by the vulgar, are called the prince's arms; though the ancient arms of the princes of Wales, whilst they were sovereigns, were, quarterly, gules and or, four lions passant, counterchanged; but now the arms of that prince differ from those of the king, only by the addition of a label of three points, luna in chief, and the crest and dexter supporters are crowned with a prince's coronet, and gorged with a label of three points as in the arms; and also the omission of Charlemain's crown borne in surtout, being carried uncharged by the late prince, to express his being heir apparent also to the office of arch-treasurer of the Roman empire.

Edward V. was born November 4, 1470, the tenth year of his father's reign, and was created prince of Wales July 26, 1471.

Arthur Tudor, eldest son of king Henry VII., was born September 20, 1486, the second year of his father's reign, and was created prince of Wales and earl of Chester, October 1, 1589, at three years of age.

Edward VI. was born October 12, 1427, the twenty-ninth year of his father, Henry VIII., and in January, 1556, when all things were

prepared for creating him prince of Wales, his father died, and he succeeded him at nine years of age.

Charles II. was born May 29th, 1630, the sixth year of his father's reign, and in May, 1638, being then eight years of age, he was stiled by order, not creation, prince of Wales.

Edward of Lancaster, the only child of king Henry VI. was born at Westminster upon the 13th day of October, the thirty-first year of his father's reign, anno 1453, was created prince of Wales and earl of Chester, by patent bearing date, at the king's palace at Westminster, the 15th day of March, anno 1454, the 32d of Henry VI., being then five months old.

The following is a list of his Royal Highness's hereditary titles; *viz.*, prince of Great Britain, electoral prince of Brunswick-Lunenburg, duke of Cornwall and Rothsay, earl of Carrick, baron of Renfrew, lord of the Isles, and great Steward of Scotland.

It may not be improper in this place to shew how the earldom of Chester came to be united with the principality of Wales; John, surnamed Le Scot, the eighth earl of Chester, marrying Helen, daughter to Lewellin prince of Wales, and dying in 1244, without issue, king Henry III. the same year, being the 27th of his reign, in regard that many regal prerogatives belonged to this earldom (giving the aunts and next co-heirs of the said John Le Scot other lands in lieu thereof) seized the same into his own hands, and by a patent annexed it to the crown, and afterwards stiled his son prince Edward, earl of Chester; and the said prince Edward, who, after his father's death, was king of England, by the name of Edward I., making the county of Flint appendant to that of Chester, they have ever since been united to the Principality of Wales.

The inhabitants of Cheshire, for the enjoy-
25—26.

ment of their liberties, were to pay, at the change of every owner of the earldom, three thousand marks, and the county of Flint, parcel of this palatinate, two thousand marks. The fee-farm rents are vested in the princes of Wales, as earls of Chester: these they hold with the castle and profits of the temporalities of the bishopric; and the freemen swear to be true to the king and earl.

Since the union with Scotland (by king James I. succeeding Elizabeth on the 24th of March 1602-3, in this kingdom) the prince of Wales is also duke of Rothsay, and seneschal or steward of Scotland, from the first hour of his nativity (being eldest son to the king thereof), a title given in the year 1396 to David Stuart, son to king Robert III. This is a very important office, having the management of the revenues of the crown and exchequer, and commander of the sovereign's armies, &c. And so long as Normandy remained in the hands of the English, the eldest son of the king of England was always stiled duke of Normandy. He still has the title of duke of Aquitaine, and can retain and qualify as many chaplains as he shall please.

The revenues belonging to the prince, since much of the lands and demesnes in Cornwall have been alienated, are especially out of the tin mines in that duchy, which, with all other profits thereof, amount to 14,000*l.* per annum. The revenue of the late Frederick prince of Wales, as established by act of parliament, amounted to 100,000*l.* per annum, clear of all deductions whatever. He is stiled, the most high, puissant, and most illustrious prince: but more ordinarily his royal highness. He is by his birth a counsellor of state, as are also all the king's sons. Till the prince came to be fourteen years old, all things belonging to the principality of Wales were wont to be dis-

posed of by commissioners, consisting of some principal persons of the clergy and nobility.

The following account of the first exhibition of the prince cannot be perused without some degree of merriment being excited at the singular restrictions which were adopted on the occasion. For the gratification of the public, it was announced before the prince was twelve days old, that his royal highness was to be seen at St. James's, from one until three o'clock, on drawing-room days. The crowd of ladies whom this offer tempted to flock to court to see the royal infant, and taste her majesty's caudle and cake, soon became immense; the daily expense for cake alone was estimated at forty pounds, and the consumption of wine was more than could have been conceived. All persons of fashion were admitted to see the prince under the following restrictions, *viz.*, that in passing through the apartment, they stepped with the greatest caution, and did not offer to touch his royal highness; though this restriction was not supposed to extend to the lower part of his clothes. For the greater security in this respect, a part of the apartment was latticed off in the Chinese manner, to prevent curious persons from approaching too close.

Addresses were now delivered to his majesty from all parts of the kingdom, we shall, however, merely give those presented by the two universities.

The Address of the University of Oxford.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We your majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, the chancellor, masters, and scholars of your university of Oxford, humbly beg leave to felicitate your majesty on the safe delivery of the queen, and the happy birth of a prince, heir apparent to the imperial crown of these realms; an event which hath hitherto been the object

of our most ardent wishes, and affords us at present a most desirable occasion of unfeigned congratulations.

The interests of prince and people are so intimately and inseparably connected with each other, that every increase of the sovereign's public or private felicity must necessarily bring along with it an accession of happiness and prosperity to the subject. Permit us then, dread Sir, to indulge ourselves in the pleasing prospect of a numerous royal progeny; and that the many and great blessings which we owe, next under God, to your majesty's most auspicious government, will, by the protection of Providence over a long race of illustrious princes to come, be transmitted down secure to the remotest period of time.

Under a lively and grateful sense of such inestimable benefits, we shall never cease to offer up our hearty thanks, and earnest prayers to Heaven, that the royal infant may long live and enjoy the inexpressible advantages of parental precepts and example; and, in a due course of years, may succeed to the throne of his ancestors; exhibiting from thence to posterity a shining pattern of all those amiable virtues which, in your majesty's royal person, add the highest lustre and dignity to the British diadem.

Given at our house of convocation this 23d day of August, in the year of our Lord 1762.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

The duty and zeal expressed to me and my family, in this very affectionate address, give me entire satisfaction; and I receive, with sincere pleasure, your warm congratulations upon an event, in which my private happiness, the permanent welfare of my people, and the prosperity of my kingdoms, are essentially and equally interested. The university of Oxford may be assured of the continuance of my protection and favour.

The Address of the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars, of the University of Cambridge.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the chancellor, masters, and scholars, of the university of Cambridge, humbly beg leave to present to your majesty our sincerest congratulations on the safe delivery of the queen, and birth of his royal highness the prince, and on

the prosperous state of her majesty's health since this happy event.

The preservation and security of their civil liberties, and the full possession of that most valuable of all blessings, the Protestant religion, which your people have enjoyed since the accession of your majesty's family to the throne of these kingdoms, have so endeared it to them, that they could not but be anxious for the continuance of the succession in your royal descendants; and, therefore this important event must fill their hearts with the greatest and most unfeigned joy. We in particular, who have been so signally protected by your majesty's predecessors of your illustrious house, and have received such repeated marks of their favour and munificence, as we are bound by all the ties of duty and gratitude earnestly to pray for the continuance of your royal line, so we feel a peculiar satisfaction in this prospect of it, which the Divine Providence hath vouchsafed to these nations.

We have the most firm and just confidence, that princes, educated under the inspection and example of your majesty, and your royal consort, will inherit, together with your crown, all the virtues necessary to its support and lustre, and to the making a people happy. On our part, we will endeavour so to form the youth committed to our care, that they may become faithful and loyal subjects, useful members of society, examples and patrons of learning and good morals. Thus we trust, that this nation shall continue, as it is under your majesty's auspicious government, flourishing and glorious; that when it shall please God to call you late to himself, your successors shall reign, like you, in the hearts and affections of a free and happy people: and that thus answering the expectations of your majesty and the public, and the noble design of our institution, we shall continue to enjoy the countenance and favour of your majesty, and your royal posterity.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

I thank you for this dutiful and loyal address.

Your affectionate congratulations upon an event, which adds to my private happiness, as well as to the permanent welfare of my people, and the prosperity of my kingdoms, give me the truest satisfaction.

The university of Cambridge may always depend upon the continuance of my protection and favour.

They were all received very graciously; had the honour to kiss his majesty's hand; and were admitted to see the prince.

On the 8th of September the ceremony of christening his royal highness the prince of Wales, was performed in the great council-chamber of his majesty's palace, by his grace the archbishop of Canterbury. His royal highness the duke of Cumberland, his most serene highness the reigning duke of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, (represented by his grace the duke of Devonshire, lord chamberlain of his majesty's household) being godfathers, and her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales being godmother. The young prince was named George Augustus Frederick.

The archbishop of Canterbury performed the following great offices, *viz.* the baptizing, marrying, and crowning of his late majesty; to which he now added the baptizing of his first son, a series of honours no one of his predecessors could ever boast of.

On the following Sunday, their majesties and the royal family attended divine service, when the following anthem, composed for the occasion by Dr. Boyce, was performed.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: because his mercy endureth for ever.

Let Israel now confess that he is gracious: and that his mercy endureth for ever.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him: yea all such as call upon him faithfully.

My heart was disquieted within me: and the fear of death was fallen upon me.

But in my trouble I called upon the Lord: and he delivered me out of my distress.

Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul: for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

O praise the Lord with me; and let us magnify his name together:

Behold, O God our Defender: and look upon the face of thine anointed.

O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness: that they may preserve him.

Let his seed endure for ever: and his throne as the days of Heaven.

So will we always sing praise unto thy name. Amen.

Hallelujah.

Lord Berkeley carried the sword of state, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Schutz.

The most splendid preparations had been for some time making for a grand installation of the order of the Garter, a pageant to which his late majesty was always particularly partial, and on Tuesday the 23d of September, their majesties entered the castle at Windsor about two o'clock; they were received at the entrance of the royal apartments by his grace the duke of Devonshire, lord Talbot, and several other officers of state, amidst the acclamations of a multitude of people. Their majesties dinner was served up at a quarter before three, and in the afternoon they went to visit his royal highness the duke of Cumberland at the lodge. About half an hour after seven o'clock, lord Bute arrived. The evening was concluded with the greatest demonstrations of joy.

Wednesday morning was ushered in by ringing of bells; 700 of the guards were drawn up in two lines from St. George's-hall to the great door of the cathedral. About half an hour after eleven o'clock, the two knights elect (his royal highness prince William and lord Bute,) entered the cathedral, and were conducted into the chapter-room, where they waited the arrival of the sovereign, who came to the cathedral at 12 o'clock, in the following procession:

King's marshal-men, two and two.

Poor knights, two and two.

Prebendaries and children of the choir.

Heralds.

The knights, two and two.

The register, having Sir Martin Leake, garter of arms, on his right hand; and Sir Septimus Robinson, usher of the black rod, on his left.

The bishop of Salisbury, as chancellor of the order.

His royal highness the duke of Cumberland.

His royal highness the duke of York.

His Majesty, sovereign of the order.

The sovereign being seated, (the organ playing), a procession from the choir was made to the chapter-room, by the marshal-men, poor knights, the chancellor, their royal highnesses the dukes of Cumberland and York, —, for prince William Henry, whom they conducted into the choir, and having been properly vested, they seated; and then went out to fetch in the earl of Bute in the same order as before, except the two knights, who were the dukes of Newcastle and Rutland. His lordship being conducted into the choir, after the two knights had gone through the usual solemnities, they were all marshalled and passed from the cathedral to the hall, in the following order:

Marshal-men, fifes, drums, trumpets, serjeant trumpeter.

Poor knights, chairmen, heralds.

Knights of the order of the garter.

Black-rod, garter, register.

The chancellor of the order.

His royal highness prince William.

His royal highness duke of York.

His [royal highness duke of Cumberland.

His grace the duke of Ancaster.

His Majesty, as sovereign of the order.

Lords and gentlemen of the presence.

Gentlemen pensioners, and yeomen of the guard.

His majesty entering the castle, went into the state room, where he received the knights, and saluted them by pulling off his cap and feather, and then retired to dinner.

Dinner being served, his majesty went in procession from the state room into St. George's hall, where, being seated under a canopy erected for that purpose, the knights took their seats

in the body of the hall, the junior knights nearest to the royal table, with the dukes of Newcastle and Rutland. At his majesty's table were seated their royal highnesses the dukes of Cumberland and York, prince William, and the young princes.

In the gallery opposite his majesty's table there was a table for the queen, the princess dowager of Wales, princess Augusta, the two young princesses, and prince Ernest of Mecklenburg, who were attended by the lords and ladies in waiting. His majesty's table was served, as usual, by the gentlemen pensioners, with three courses of twenty covers each. Between the third course and the desert, his majesty conferred the honour of knighthood on Robert Goodyere, esq., lieutenant of the band of pensioners.

Nothing could be more magnificent, or more striking, than the appearance in the hall at this time, which, besides the usual company, was graced by the royal family. His majesty surpassed every thing that can be said or described; nor were their royal highnesses the dukes of Cumberland and York, or prince William, less noble. At every health that was drank, the drums and trumpets, who were placed at the lower end of the hall, flourished; and between the serving the courses, they sounded a most noble new march, composed for that purpose by Mr. Serjeant Snow.

Dinner being ended, his majesty proceeded, as usual, and retired into the royal apartment. And thus ended this most noble installation, which far surpassed, in point of grandeur, the expectation of every individual who was present; the company was very numerous, a most elegant and roomy gallery being erected opposite the knights table for the nobility and gentry.

Every thing was conducted with the greatest order and propriety, notwithstanding the great

crowd of people, who were admitted by his majesty's great goodness and consideration, that every heart might partake of the general joy.

On the right side the armoury-room, in three state rooms, were three tables; the first for the foreign ministers, second for the noblemen and their ladies, and the third for the maids of honour, &c., covered and served with every thing that the most luxurious fancy could invent or suggest.

The ball in the evening, which was the most splendid ever beheld in England, was kept in the grand armoury, next to St. George's-hall. Their majesties came in about eight o'clock, when the minuets began by his royal highness the duke of York and princess Augusta. Several minuets were afterwards danced by the nobility, and at ten o'clock the country dances began. After one dance was gone down, their majesties retired, and at eleven o'clock the dances ended, when the company went to supper in the three state rooms where they had dined. The tables were again covered with the utmost magnificence and taste, and were open to every person who came properly dressed.

Upon the whole, nothing could be more splendid or more king-like than this meeting: Ceres and Pomona danced hand in hand, spreading their kindest influence; every heart rejoiced with their truly great and generous monarch; for the greatest plenty, even to profusion, reigned through the whole castle, and the noble hall and apartments of St. George were once again rejoiced with a truly English king and his court.

His majesty's cap was set with jewels to a prodigious value, and his robes were looped up with diamonds. The queen's stomacher, made for this occasion, was said to be worth 50,000*l.*, a single jewel in it being valued at 10,000*l.* It is supposed the expense of the installation

amounted to 25,000*l.*; but it is customary for the crown to defray the whole of it, when any of the royal family are installed.

The queen, the princess of Wales, and the royal family, were in the choir during the ceremony of the installation, seated under two magnificent canopies erected for that purpose.

After the installation, the king was in high spirits at a morning's review of foot-guards in the Little Park. The spectators were numerous. Mr. Windham, the wife of a female party, was among them, remarking and explaining every thing with his usual happy quickness. "This is all very fine; I came down on purpose to see it. It is better than the formal shows were at Versailles." The king turning round suddenly to him, "Ah! Windham, you are there: I hope you like it all." At a review of horse-guards next morning in the Great Park, a grand line of royal and other carriages was formed, and behind them an exhibition was made of all the valuable horses of his majesty from their different stables; some drawing handsome royal carriages, with saddle-horses and chargers—English, German, and Oriental. They made a fine show. The king divided his spare moments during the review between the queen and the princess of Wales. He called his consort's notice to the smart horsemanship of the duke of Cumberland and others. To the princess of Wales he paid peculiar attention, desiring her to stop the week out at Windsor. On her royal highness making some excuses, his majesty said, "I'll take no excuse. No, no; you must stay. I have got something for your amusement every day—every day." Turning to lord Winchelsea, the king said, "Winchelsea, Winchelsea, do you see my horse? I mounted him fresh since I came into the park, as I always do; I have had him twenty years, and he is good now. Do you know the secret?

I'll tell you, Winchelsea,—I know his worth, and I treat him accordingly. That's the right way, Winchelsea;" and then trotted off to somebody else. These are only mentioned as instances, to those who did not approach the king, of his free familiar conversation. He kept every one in good humour, and always spared them the trouble of making long ceremonious answers. On these *fetes* he introduced a new court costume, of garter blue and gold, with scarlet waistcoats, which was worn by most noblemen who were not in uniforms. It looked grand, but quite after the old heavy style. For some time before this, he had taken a great liking to the Royal Horse Guards Blue, and had them constantly at Windsor. On common occasions it was his fancy to wear a captain's uniform of that regiment, and he appointed for himself a troop and captaincy in it. He made them a present, in the Upper Castle-yard, of a superb pair of silver kettle-drums, and prefaced his gift with a short address to them, saying, among other things, "These are silver kettle-drums for you. I give them with pleasure. I know you will value them, and take proper care of them. I am sure of that!" The king sat his horse on this occasion so well, as to excite the strong approbation of a celebrated judge of equestrian performances who was present.

On the morning of the 25th of September, their majesties, on their return from Windsor, honoured Eton College with their presence, being attended by the lords and ladies of the court.

They were waited on by the provost and fellows at the great gates of the college, and conducted into the school, where the masters were prepared to receive them, with the scholars standing in their places, to the number of 500.

Their majesties passed between them to their chairs at the upper end of the school; and being seated, the company standing behind their chairs, one of the scholars advanced from his place into the middle of the school, and addressed the king in a speech in English, which was very graciously received by his majesty.

Their majesties had then the condescension to look into the long chamber, or dormitory. In the interim the scholars and masters went into the chapel, and took their places there. On their majesties coming into the chapel, a solemn piece of music was performed on the organ, accompanied with many other instruments.

Their majesties walked the whole length of the chapel to the rails of the communion table, viewing the scholars on each side, and expressed very great satisfaction in the sight. From thence their majesties went to the hall, and to the library, where many of the young noblemen were presented to them; and the valuable collection of drawings, &c. belonging to the college, being carried into the election chamber, a room adjoining, they were pleased to spend a considerable time in examining what was most worthy of notice.

On their going down from the provost's lodge into the quadrangle, the whole school was drawn up in several lines to receive their majesties, and saluted them as they went into their chaise, with a joyful cry of *Vivat Rex et Regina*.

My lord chamberlain, by his majesty's order, left a very noble present, amounting to 230*l.*, to be disposed of as the provost and masters of the school should think best.

Particular notice has been already taken of the interest which his majesty took in the literary and scientific institutions of the country,

but he was graciously pleased at this time to extend his bounty, by authorizing a collection to be made throughout the kingdom for the joint benefit of the two colleges and seminaries of learning at that time established in the cities of New-York and Philadelphia; and, at the same time, he granted a royal bounty of 600*l.* towards so excellent a design.

Whilst these interesting events were transacted in the domestic circle of his majesty, circumstances of a most important nature took place in the political world, and which had a particular reference to the establishment of a peace between the belligerent powers. The duke of Bedford set out for Paris on the 5th of September 1762, with full powers to treat, and on the 12th of the same month the duc de Nivernois arrived in England. The latter nobleman was not many hours in England, before he experienced a very striking proof of the rapacity of the English innkeepers, for, being obliged to take up his quarters for the night at Canterbury, the following very moderate bill was put into his hands on his departure in the morning:

	£	s.	d.
Tea, coffee, and chocolate	1	4	0
Supper for self and servants	15	10	0
Bread and beer	3	0	0
Fruit	2	15	0
Wine and punch	10	8	8
Wax candles and charcoal	3	0	0
Broken glass and china	2	10	0
Lodging	1	7	0
Tea, coffee, and chocolate for twelve persons....	2	0	0
Chaise and horse for stage	2	16	0
	<hr/> £44 10 8 <hr/>		

The whole company, consisting of twelve persons, drank mostly port wine; according to the quantity, it comes to eleven shillings per bottle, and punch the same.

When the duke of Bedford landed at Calais, M. Becquet de Cocove, president of the court of justice at that place, attended by all the king's officers, waited on his grace at the inn, and complimented him in the following terms :

My Lord,

It would betray in us a disregard to the welfare of mankind in general, and to that of the two crowns of France and England in particular, should we omit this opportunity of testifying our joy for the important commission entrusted to your grace, to put the finishing hand to the work of peace. Who could have been nominated more capable than your grace, to reconcile so many different interests, and remove so many difficulties? Yes, my lord duke, your wisdom will surmount all difficulties: the two nations of rivals you will make friends, by inspiring them with the spirit of union and concord. They have, in all ages, mutually esteemed each other: it was, perhaps, reserved for your grace to change this esteem into a happy sympathy. May we soon see you repass, my lord, with the olive-branch in your hand, going to reap the happy fruits of your wise mediation, after gaining the esteem of our master, and meriting the favour of your own sovereign. These are the wishes of our officers of justice of Calais, who beg leave to assure your grace of their most profound respect.

The duke of Bedford, however, had not been many hours at Calais, before he received despatches from London by a messenger, who was sent after him, containing some limitations in his full powers. He immediately sent the messenger back with a letter, insisting upon his former instructions being restored, and in case of a refusal, declaring his resolution to return to England. The cabinet acceded to his grace's demand, but the most essential articles of the treaty were agreed upon between M. de Chaiseul and the Sardinian minister at Paris, and lord Bute and the Sardinian minister at London, without any other trouble to the duke of Bedford than giving his formal assent. The

manceuvre of making the king of Sardinia umpire, gave to his ambassadors the power of decision, consequently the duke of Bedford had very little room for the exercise of his powers, until a circumstance happened which occasioned a division in the British cabinet. This was the capture of the Havannah. The news of this event arrived in England on the 29th of September. The negociation at this time was nearly concluded, and in a few days the preliminaries would have been signed.

Lord Bute expressed his fears, that this acquisition would embarrass and postpone the accomplishment of peace, if the negociation, which was on the point of being finished, should on that account be opened again; and therefore he declared his wish to be, to conclude the peace in the same manner, and on the same terms, which had been agreed upon before the news of this event arrived; without any other mention of it, than the name of it among the places to be restored.

Mr. Grenville opposed this idea. He declared his opinion to be, that if the Havannah was restored, there ought to be an equivalent given for it. And in their deliberations upon this subject, it is certain, that he insisted upon this alternative—either the entire property of Jucatan and Florida, or the islands of St. Lucia and Porto Rico.

Lord Bute adhered to his first opinion. Upon which Mr. Grenville resigned his place of secretary of state on the 12th day of October. Lord Halifax immediately succeeded to his office; and Mr. Grenville went to the admiralty, by which he was removed from the cabinet.

Lord Egremont, however, represented to lord Bute, in very strong terms, the necessity of an equivalent for the Havannah. Either his lordship's arguments, or lord Bute's fears, so far prevailed, as to occasion an instruction to

be sent to the duke of Bedford, to ask for Florida. The duke had been informed of the whole dispute in the British cabinet, by Mr. Grenville, and being entirely of Mr. Grenville's opinion, he added, Porto Rico to his demand. But lord Bute and the Sardinian minister in London, settled it for Florida only. At Paris some difficulties arose. The cession of Florida was made without the least hesitation; the French minister instantly agreed to it; which shews the superior influence of the French cabinet in this negotiation. But with respect to Porto Rico, the French minister resorted to chicane and delay. It was at length agreed, to send a messenger to Madrid, with this demand.—Fourteen days were allowed for the messenger to go and return. During this period, the duke of Bedford received positive orders to sign the preliminaries. Two days after the preliminaries were signed, the messenger returned; and it was said, that Spain purchased the retention of the island. Whether the Sardinian minister at London, or at Paris, or both, were entrusted on this occasion; or whether any other persons were admitted to the same confidence, are questions for the investigation of posterity. Discoveries of this kind are seldom made, either at, or near the time of the transaction. The offers of Louis XIV. to the duke of Marlborough, were not known until the publication of De Torcy's memoirs*. Whatever were the confidential measures, it is certain, the duke of Bedford was not entrusted with them. However, as his grace kept a diary of all public transactions, in which he had any share; and as Mr. Grenville kept copies of all his letters on public business,

if ever these are laid before the public, and it is hoped they will, many suspicions, which can now only be hinted, will be confirmed, or exploded.

Parliament met on the 25th of November, when his majesty delivered the following most gracious speech:

My lords and gentlemen,

I found, on my accession to the throne, these my kingdoms engaged in a bloody and expensive war.

I resolved to prosecute it with the utmost vigour, determined, however, to consent to peace, upon just and honourable terms, whenever the events of war should incline the enemy to the same pacific disposition.

A negotiation was accordingly begun last year, which proved ineffectual. The war became afterwards more general, by the resolution of the court of Madrid to take part with my enemy, notwithstanding my best endeavours to prevent it.

This, with the unexpected attack of my natural and good ally the king of Portugal, greatly affected our commerce, multiplied the objects of our military operations, and increased our difficulties, by adding to the heavy burthens under which this country already laboured.

My object still continued the same, to attain an honourable peace, by pursuing this more extensive war in the most vigorous manner. I embraced therefore an occasion offered me, of renewing the negociation; but at the same time I exerted so effectually the strength which you had put into my hands, and have been so well served by my fleets and armies in the execution of my plans, that history cannot furnish examples of greater glory, or greater advantages acquired by the arms of this, or any other nation, in so short a period of time. My general prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and my army in Germany, have gained immortal honour by many signal advantages obtained during the course of this campaign, over an enemy superior in numbers. The progress of the French and Spanish arms in Portugal has been stopt; and that kingdom preserved by the firmness and resolu-

* I am willing you should offer the duke of Marlborough four millions, should he enable me to keep Naples and Sicily for my grandson, and to preserve Dunkirk with its fortifications and harbour, and Strasburg and Landau, in the manner above explained, or even the same sum, were Sicily to be exempted out of this last article — *Mem. de Torcy*. T. II. p. 237.

tion of its sovereign, and by the military talents of the reigning count La Lippe, seconded by the valour of the troops under his command. Martinico, and other islands in the West-Indies, have been conquered; the Havannah, a place of the utmost importance to Spain, is in my possession; and with it great treasures, and a very considerable part of the navy of Spain, are fallen into our hands.

I cannot mention these achievements, which reflect such honour on my crown, without giving my public testimony to the unwearied perseverance, and unparalleled bravery of my officers and private men, by sea and land, who, by repeated proofs, have shewn, that no climate, no hardships, no dangers, can check the ardor, or resist the valour of the British arms.

Next to the assistance of Almighty God, it is owing to their conduct and courage, that my enemies have been brought to accept of peace on such terms, as, I trust, will give my parliament entire satisfaction. Preliminary articles have been signed by my minister, with those of France and Spain, which I will order in due time to be laid before you.

The conditions of these are such, that there is not only an immense territory added to the empire of Great Britain, but a solid foundation laid for the increase of trade and commerce; and the utmost care has been taken to remove all occasions of future disputes between my subjects, and those of France and Spain, and thereby to add security and permanency to the blessings of peace.

While I carefully attend to the essential interests of my kingdoms, I have had the utmost regard to the good faith of my crown, and the interests of my allies. I have made peace for the king of Portugal, securing to him all his dominions; and all the territories of the king of Prussia, as well as of my other allies in Germany, or elsewhere, occupied by the armies of France, are to be immediately evacuated.

Gentlemen of the house of commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates to be laid before you; and shall, without delay, proceed to make reductions to the utmost extent, wherever they may be found consistent with wisdom and sound policy. It is the greatest affliction for me to find, that, though the war is at an end, our expenses cannot immediately be so much lessened as I desire; but as nothing could have carried us through the great and arduous difficulties surrounding us, but the most vigorous and expensive efforts, we must

expect, for some time, to feel the consequences of them to a considerable degree.

My lords and gentlemen,

It was impossible to execute what this nation has so gloriously performed in all parts of the world, without the loss of great numbers of men. When you consider this loss, whether on the principles of policy or humanity, you will see one of the many reasons which induced me to enter early into negotiation, so as to make a considerable progress in it, before the fate of many operations was determined; and now to hasten the conclusion of it, to prevent the necessity of making preparations for another campaign. As by this peace my territories are greatly augmented, and new sources opened for trade and manufactures, it is my earnest desire, that you would consider of such methods in the settlements of our new acquisitions, as shall most effectually tend to the security of those countries, and to the improvement of the commerce and navigation of Great Britain. I cannot mention our acquisitions, without earnestly recommending to your care and attention my gallant subjects, by whose valour they were made.

We could never have carried on this extensive war, without the greatest union at home. You will find the same union peculiarly necessary, in order to make the best use of the great advantages acquired by the peace; and to lay the foundation of that economy which we owe to ourselves, and to our posterity, and which can alone relieve this nation, from the heavy burthens brought upon it by the necessities of this long and expensive war.

On the 29th of November, the preliminary articles of peace with France and Spain were laid before both houses; on the 9th of December they were taken into consideration, and a motion was made to return his majesty thanks for his gracious condescension in ordering the preliminary articles of peace, concluded between his majesty and their most christian and catholic majesties, to be laid before them. To assure his majesty, his faithful commons were impatient to express to his majesty their approbation of the advantageous terms upon which his majesty hath concluded preliminary articles of peace; and to lay before his majesty, the

heartly applause of faithful, affectionate, and thankful people, &c. &c.

One of the most extraordinary circumstances arising from the peace, and which caused considerable grief to his majesty, was the formal accusation which was brought against lord Bute, of his having accepted a considerable sum of money from the court of Versailles, for the purchase of the peace. The examination of Dr. Musgrave at the bar of the house of commons was a most curious document, but the charges not being able to be substantiated, were by the house declared to be frivolous.

His majesty in the mean time beheld with regret the tottering state of the Bute administration, and his mind, agitated by the bold and licentious manner in which the opinion of the people was promulgated through the medium of the press, sought for relief in the pleasure and charms of domestic life. Indeed, at this period, the life of his majesty in relation to himself individually, was simplicity itself. It was fortunate that he found in his consort, a female, who appeared to enter at once into his views of domestic happiness, and who appeared to devote every moment of her life to the acquisition of those attainments, which could conduce to the permanent felicity of her illustrious spouse. The queen, shortly after her marriage, engaged Dr. Majendie as her instructor in the English language, and it was a most pleasing spectacle to behold the monarch of the country, after having devoted the hours of the day to state affairs, cheerfully assisting his consort in the acquisition of his native language. Whatever may have been reported of the superficial knowledge of his majesty, it is certain that he was well versed in the beauties of English literature, and his strong predilection for the works of Shakespeare and of Milton amongst the poets, and of Johnson and Beattie

amongst the prose writers, is strongly corroborative of the purity of his majesty's literary taste. It was his general custom on an evening to read some of the most celebrated passages from his most admired authors to the queen, and in a short time he was glad to find that his royal pupil was not only able to converse fluently, but to write the English language with particular elegance. One of her compositions in the English language has been most kindly transmitted to us, and we insert it as a proof of the extent of her acquirement of one of the most difficult of the European tongues :

Genteel is my Damon, engaging his air,
His face like the morn, is both ruddy and fair,
Soft love sits enthroned in the beam of his eyes,
He's manly, yet tender, he's fond, and yet wise.

He's ever good-humour'd, he's generous and gay,
His presence can always drive sorrow away,
No vanity sways him, no folly is seen,
But open his temper, and noble his mien.

By virtue illumin'd his actions appear,
His passions are calm, and his reason is clear,
An affable sweetness attends on his speech,
He's willing to learn, tho' he's able to teach.

He has promised to love me—his word I'll believe,
For his heart is too honest to let him deceive;
Then blame me, ye fair ones, if justly you can,
Since the picture I've drawn is exactly the man.

The Percy Anecdotes place these verses of her majesty in the year 1765, but we have authority to state that they were delivered by her majesty to the king in the early part of 1763, in a most elegant valentine worked by her own hands.

Although this era of our history was marked by the return of peace abroad, yet it was wholly different at home; the measures of the ministers roused the indignation of the people to that height, that few corporate bodies could be found who would address the king on the

parliamentary approbation of the articles of peace. In some instances the addresses were obtained in the most dishonourable manner, and in one case the seal of a corporation was forged, and in more than one it was feloniously obtained. The city of London refused to address, although the sum of 14,000*l.* was offered to complete Blackfriars-bridge. The lord-lieutenants had begging letters sent to them to use their influence, and five hundred pounds secret service were added to each letter. The sum of 500*l.* was the notorious price of an address, but it was in general regulated according to the importance or magnitude of the place.

To increase the unpopularity of the ministers, a bill was at this time brought into parliament, laying a duty upon cider and perry*, and the city being alarmed at the extension of the excise laws, determined to petition every branch of the legislature against it; and, so great were lord Bute's fears of a petition being presented to the king, that he promised upon his honour, if they would not petition, that the act should be repealed on the following year. One of the committee made the following remarkable answer: "My lord, we know not that you will be minister next year."

This application proving unsuccessful, Mr. Jenkinson, afterwards lord Hawksbury, sent a card to Sir James Hodges, the town-clerk, desiring to see him upon particular business. Sir James went, and lord Bute again made the offer, if the city would not petition the king, to repeal the act the ensuing session. Sir James returned into the city, and collecting the committee at Guildhall, laid before them a state of the conference which he had had with the

minister. The committee treated the promise with contempt, and the petition was presented to the king.

Lord Temple presented the city petition to the house of lords, and in the course of his speech, mentioned the circumstance of lord Bute tampering with the city committee, upon which lord Bute got up and assured the house, *that the whole was a factious lie.*

On this the corporation of London immediately assembled to inquire into the conduct of the town-clerk. At this inquiry Sir James Hodges acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the whole court, by a candid and fair narration of all the preceding facts; and, at the conclusion, he voluntarily offered to verify the same upon oath.

Lord Bute finding his cabinet divided upon almost every question that came before them, and fearing the duke of Bedford's indignation, who was on the point of returning from Paris, he settled an arrangement in favour of the duke's friends, and retired from his public station on the 8th of April, 1763. All governments have their times of confusion, all rise from chaos, and have periodic returns into that original discord, but the government of England has an additional element of tumult, and faction is always ready to darken, pervert, and disturb. No man's living fame was more tarnished by this "sulphurous smoke" than that of George III., and not only his own fame, but that of those most nearly allied to him by blood. He appeared to be the chosen mark at which malevolence could direct its most poisoned shafts, nor was he allowed the common privilege of a human being. His majesty was

* An excellent parliamentary anecdote is related of Mr. Pitt, when he opposed the bill for laying a duty on cider. Mr. Pitt had spoken against the bill, and Mr. Grenville in reply, repeated with a strong emphasis two or three times, *Tell me where you can lay another tax?* Mr. Pitt replied in a musical tone, *Gentle shepherd, tell me where.* The whole house burst out in a fit of laughter, which continued for some minutes.

no more exempt from an error of judgment than any other person; and yet, with a heart keenly alive to the interests of the country, with dispositions bordering on the enthusiastic to preserve inviolate the constitution of his kingdom, the demons of faction broke loose and assailed him in every quarter in which they thought they could discover a vulnerable point. It cannot indeed be denied, that the commencement of the king's administrative life was signalled by an unlucky choice. The earl of Bute was not fit to be at the head of a great popular government. He had the common qualities that raise a man to court distinction; he was graceful, accomplished, and insinuating; he might have made a favorite at the court of France, or a confessor in the listless and pious indolence of the Spanish Bourbons. But in a free government he must have sunk, and more especially at that particular period, when he attempted to steer the vessel of the state in storms the most perilous. His navigation should have been under the serener skies of the South. He had not strength to grasp the helm in the furious and resistless tempests of the great popular ocean. He was soon driven from the power of which he had been so unwisely ambitious; and in the peril of the hour, the state was consigned to the first hands that could be found among the daring and the capable. But the capacity of lord Bute was to be known only on its trial—the charge upon the king was his choice of a Scotchman, and this charge was reiterated against his majesty till the nation rung with it. Lord Bute was unfortunately a Stuart, and his predecessor was the elder brother of Robert the Third. In this circumstance the people of this country found a fresh source of attack upon his majesty; they saw in lord Bute an actual pretender to the crown, and a parallel was drawn between his

majesty and the former kings of this country. There is indeed no country the history of which can adduce so many instances of the jealousy entertained by the kings in regard to the pretenders to the throne than that of England. Edward the Fourth put to death an alehouse-man only for saying that he would make his son heir to the crown, which it appears was the sign of his house. Innumerable are the sacrifices which were made to this state jealousy during the reigns of Richard the Third, Henry the Seventh, and Henry the Eighth. It is well known that Henry the Seventh put to death a poor prince of the blood royal, though he was so ignorant as not to know the difference between a cock and a goose. In the succeeding reign, not to mention other instances, the gallant earl of Surry had his head cut off, only for quartering his arms with those of Edward the Confessor, and his father must have followed him had the old king lived but a day or two longer. Even the mild Edward the Sixth took off the heads of the two only uncles he had, because it was thought they aspired to sovereignty. All the innocency of Lady Jane Grey could not protect her from sharing the same fate in the succeeding reign, and the case of Mary Queen of Scots under Elizabeth is well known. History indeed informs us, that the Stuarts themselves were not void of state jealousy—witness the fates of the earl of Gowry, the lady Arabella, and the duke Monmouth.

These incidents in English history were at this time the subject of general conversation, and they were held in comparison with the conduct of George III. That lord Bute ever entertained the most distant idea of raising himself to the throne, cannot be received as a fact in the life of George III., but it was made one of the grounds of attack against him; and at this period, some preposterous patronage of

his lordship gave an abundance of fuel to the latent hatred. Wilkes touched the vent, and it burst into a flame. His *North Briton* was the gauntlet which he threw into the lists, and government was averse to combat this profligate on his own terms. Folly was the natural companion of violence, and the majesty of the throne was committed in an unworthy conflict with a broken demagogue. Wilkes's expulsion from the house of commons, and his re-election, are matters of history, and have no further relation to this work, than as they tended to obstruct the functions of his majesty's government, and to increase the stream of unpopularity which flowed so strongly against him. It was, however, in one instance fortunate for his majesty, that the ground of this struggle was shifted, and that from the alternate arenas of St. George's Fields and the secretary of state's office, the battle was fought in the legislature. This transfer of the war secured the demagogue a force of a new order. He had been till now the sole champion of a reprobate cause, but now a nobler and more accomplished array received him under their banner. The opposition adopted his quarrel, but still the populace were excluded from the trial, the combat was fought in lists, and it was more the gallant exhibition of personal prowess, than the gratification of individual revenge.

Wilkes triumphed, as every man expected, from the time that the ministry stooped to use violent measures against him. The attempt to make him an example of public justice, made him only a more conspicuous object for partisanship. He was elevated by the hands that strove to lift him to the scaffold. Impure and odious as he was, the great mass of the intelligent and free-minded in England felt that this contemptible and guilty demagogue was yet the advanced guard of liberty; he was made to

be hazarded, but if he was given up, the next attack might be on the integral force of English freedom. With the populace, Wilkes's courage, political and personal, his adroitness of escape, and his insolence of attack, made him a favourite. In this respect he was far superior to the demagogues of the present day. His spirit might be relied on—he shrank from no violence of the law—from no injury to his personal safety. He was equally prepared for the prison or the pistol. In a few words, Wilkes was the perfection of an English political disturber.

It was, however, acknowledged that his majesty's conduct through this trying occasion was not only manly but consistent. Party spirit was at its height, and raged with a fury hitherto unexampled in the country. Men of talent exerted themselves in keeping up its force, and spreading its influence with a zeal for which the historian will seek in vain for any cause of praise.

In the midst of these intestine broils, his majesty found his consolation in the consciousness of his own rectitude, and in the bosom of domestic enjoyment, where the partner of his joys and cares rendered his home a little paradise. A trifling circumstance at this time gave rise to a most meritorious institution, which was established solely at the expense and under the immediate patronage of her majesty. One evening their majesties were walking in the vicinity of Kew, when they met a widow accompanied by three fine girls, whose dress bespoke them to be in a state of poverty, but whose manners and genteel behaviour marked them as having belonged to the genteeler classes of society. His majesty was remarkable for affability, and in his walks, when any of the female schools passed him, he would pat some of the girls on the head, saying, "Very

fine girls, very fine girls." On this occasion there was something in the appearance of the widow and her children which attracted the notice of his majesty, and after some inquiries he learnt that she was the widow of an officer killed in Germany, and that she was now almost left destitute, with four children to support, one of which, a son, she had left at home in a bad state of health. The widow knew not to whom she was relating her piteous story, but their majesties inquired her name, and the rank and regiment of her late husband, and directed her to call at the palace on the following day with her children, and to send up her name. In the mean time his majesty made inquiry into the truth of the widow's story, and found it to be correct. When the widow called on the following day, she was thrown into a great degree of embarrassment, when she heard that it was the king and queen with whom she had been conversing the preceding day. She was, however, admitted into their presence, when her majesty informed her that it was her intention to take her daughters under her immediate care. This circumstance gave rise to her majesty's establishment in Bedfordshire, at which fifty daughters of naval officers, and fifty daughters of military officers who had fallen in battle, were instructed in every genteel accomplishment; they were all dressed uniformly, and were retained on the establishment until they were eighteen, or until a suitable situation could be found them at their departure; a stated sum of money was given to each, to enable them to clothe themselves respectably. The produce of their labour was converted into ornaments for window-curtains, chairs, sofas, and bed-furniture for Windsor-Castle, and St. James's palace. This was an act worthy of the royal minds who formed it, and truly deserving the

imitation of every monarch whose subjects die in his defence.

We must here insert a singular circumstance in the ecclesiastical history of this country, which took place about this time. Pearce, bishop of Rochester and dean of Westminster, being at a very advanced age, and finding himself declining in health and faculties, was desirous to resign his preferments and live upon his private fortune. For this purpose he applied to lord Bath to mention his wish to the king, who very graciously named a day and hour, when the reverend prelate was admitted alone into the closet. He then repeated to his majesty his wish to retire from public life, and to have some interval between the fatigues of business and eternity, and begged the king would consult the proper persons about the legality and propriety of such a resignation. His majesty, with great condescension, promised the bishop he would do it, and in about two months afterwards he informed the prelate that lord Mansfield saw no objection, and that although lord Northington at first entertained some doubts, yet, on more mature consideration, he thought the request might be complied with. This singular and unprecedented event however was prevented taking place, not from any ecclesiastical cause, but from a political one; for on lord Bath proposing bishop Newton to succeed bishop Pearce, the ministry took alarm at his interference: his majesty was informed that the bishops disliked the design, and the bishop bowed submission. On this occasion his majesty said, "That he knew many who were willing to become bishops, but he knew only one who was willing to be un-bishoped."

On the resignation of lord Bute, it was immediately signified to all the foreign ministers that his majesty had placed his government in the hands of Mr. Grenville, lord Halifax, and

lord Egremont; and as soon as other arrangements were made, his majesty closed the session of parliament on the 19th of April. It was upon the speech delivered by his majesty at the close of this session, that the *North Briton* made those observations which drew down upon the author all the resentment of government. The particulars of this interesting affair are too well known to require, in this place, any comment; but when the memorable *Letters of Junius* appeared, in the address to the king, originally published on the 19th of December 1769, are these words, "The destruction of *one* man, has been, for many years, the sole object of your government." This evidently refers to Wilkes, and in justice it must be avowed, that at no period of the English history, was government so annoyed by the talent of literary men, as in the year 1763-4. The press appeared to have assumed an unlimited license, all control over it was lost, and it fulminated the most scurrilous abuse, not only against the sovereign, but against every member of his government. His majesty foresaw the storm, and was determined to set his face against any violent measures of a party nature, he considered it more prudent to let the storm vent its fury, and subside in peace, than by any act of his own increase the tumult, and he was known actually to declare that he would not employ any persons in the state, who were in the habit of forming themselves into combinations by dinner parties. At the time, he was much commended for this act, but as the violence of party rage increased, he was proportionably blamed, and accused of a total want of national spirit. To add to the high degree of unpopularity in which his majesty stood at this time, it was reported that it was his intention to visit his electoral dominions in Germany; and indeed there was some truth in the report,

for an estimate was actually ordered to be made out of the probable expenses which the journey would incur; but the intention on the part of his majesty was no sooner made public, then it was immediately construed to be the effect of mere pusillanimity, and that it was a positive flight from his kingdom in order to escape from the storm which was then supposed ready to burst over his head. They were, however, very little conversant with the real character of our late monarch, who could suppose, that any such intention on his part arose from the effect of fear. There was scarcely a character to be found in the English dominions, in whose constitution so small a quantum of fear was intermixed as in that of the king. He may, in some respects, be said not to have known what fear is; and it is not a very improbable supposition, that the idea of his journey to Hanover was abandoned on account of his determination to shew that the motive ascribed to him was wholly foreign to his disposition.

In the midst, however, of this political tumult his noble benevolence often found ample materials on which to exercise itself. We have to record a beautiful specimen of it on the occasion of lady Molesworth's house in Upper Brook-street, being destroyed by fire on the 6th of May; her ladyship with two of her daughters perishing in the flames, and the other three, all of a tender age, escaping with dreadful bruises, and fractured limbs. His majesty no sooner become acquainted with the circumstance, than he sent to the unhappy survivors a handsome present, and not only ordered a house to be taken for them at his own expense, but continued to them the pension settled upon their mother, and even made an addition to it.

Although peace was established with the foreign power, yet the country was agitated by intestine broils, the mind of his majesty be-

came depressed, and no exertion was wanting on the part of his affectionate consort to alleviate his cares, and to lighten the burthen which lay so heavily upon him. It was on this account, that she often formed particular plans, which were intended to surprise his majesty by their novelty or beauty, and the birth-day of the king on the 4th of June, 1763, presented her with a favourable opportunity of putting her plans in execution. The whole was managed with secrecy, and accomplished with success.

The 4th of June, the anniversary of the birth of the sovereign was publicly celebrated at St. James's. His majesty then resided at Buckingham-house, but the queen persuaded him not to return to it but to remain at St. James's until the 6th. It formed a part of the scheme to detain the king there till late in the evening of the 6th, when he received masks on their way to a masked ball, so that he did not return to the queen's palace until ten o'clock. On being then led to the window of the queen's breakfast-room, which looks into the grounds, the shutters were thrown back, and he beheld a magnificent temple and bridge, with an orchestra in front, composed of fifty chosen musicians. He saw himself represented in a grand transparency, as giving peace to the world, surrounded by all the public and private virtues which for so many years distinguished him, whilst the vices of the day were trodden beneath his feet. The different structures, tastefully designed and ornamented with transparencies, were illuminated with some thousands of variegated lamps. Struck with the brilliant sight, his majesty at once comprehended the gentle feelings that created this magical scene, which not only commemorated his natal day, but also an important event, grateful to humanity, the peace of 1763.

This spectacle formed part of a fete, to which were invited all the royal family and a select

party of the court. The rooms were thrown open, and a magnificent supper of one hundred covers closed the entertainment. This formed one of the gay scenes at the queen's palace, at which social pleasure and virtue equally presided, and continued to preside for many a year.

Early in the month of August, 1763, a circumstance occurred which not only threw the ministry into disorder and perplexity, but inflicted a great degree of sorrow on the mind of his majesty. This was the sudden death of lord Egremont, whose abilities were by far the most distinguished in the cabinet. Lord Bute, either ashamed of the weakness of a ministry, of which he was supposed to have been the maker, or desirous of doing the king a personal service, by giving him another which would be more popular, or perhaps expecting to redeem his own lost popularity by a broad and powerful coalition of parties, proposed to unite the nation by calling in its greatest favorite. For this purpose he sent Sir Harry Erskine to Alderman Beckford, soliciting the alderman's interest with Mr. Pitt, to procure an interview between his lordship and that gentleman. They met at Mr. Pitt's house, in Jernyn-street. Lord Bute, after the first compliments, acknowledged promptly that the present ministry could not go on, that the king was convinced of it, and therefore his lordship requested that Mr. Pitt, would with the same promptness, and at full length, give him his opinion of the measures and characters then exhibited in the political world. After much reluctance, Mr. Pitt did so with the utmost freedom, indeed, though with civility. Lord Bute heard him with great attention and patience, entering into no defence, but at last said, "If these are your opinions, why should you not tell them to the king himself, who will not be unwilling to hear you."

"How can I, my lord," answered Mr. Pitt, "presume to go to the king, who am not of his council, nor in his service, and have no pretence to ask an audience? The presumption would be too great." "But supposing his majesty," replied his lordship, "should order you to attend him, I presume, sir, you would not refuse it?" Mr. Pitt replied, "The king's command would make it my duty, and I should certainly obey it." On the following day, (Thursday, August 25,) Mr. Pitt received from the king a note unsealed, requiring him to attend his majesty on Saturday noon, at the queen's palace in the park. To avoid exciting in his brethren of the opposition the slightest suspicion of dealing clandestinely with the court, Mr. Pitt went at the time appointed through the Mall in his gouty chair, the boot of which, as he said himself, made it as well known as if his name was written upon it. He was immediately carried into the closet, received very graciously, and his majesty began in like manner as his quondam favorite had done, by ordering him to tell him his opinion of things and persons at large, and with the utmost freedom, and in substance made the same confession that his ministers could not go on. The audience lasted three hours, and Mr. Pitt went through the whole upon both heads more fully than he had done to lord Bute, but with great complaisance and douceur to the king. His majesty heard him with great patience and attention, and he appeared by his manner and many of his expressions to be convinced. The topics of Mr. Pitt's animadversions were chiefly the infirmities of the peace,—the things necessary and hitherto neglected to improve and prevent it—the present state of the nation both foreign and domestic, and the great interest which his majesty would derive in restoring the great whig families which had been driven from

his majesty's council and service. Mr. Pitt now repeated many names, upon which the king told him there was pen, ink, and paper, and he wished he would write them down. Mr. Pitt humbly excused himself, saying, that would be too much for him to take upon himself, and he might upon his memory, omit some material persons, which might be subject to imputation. The king seemed pleased with his promptness, and bade him proceed, but every now and then his majesty said, "*My honour must be consulted.*" This conference, lasted a considerable time, and his majesty ordered Mr. Pitt to attend him again on the following Monday. Mr. Pitt was punctual to his appointment, and the king received him most graciously. His majesty began the conference, which lasted nearly two hours, by declaring that he had considered of what had been said, and talked still more strongly of his honour. The king then mentioned lord Northumberland for the treasury, still proceeding upon the supposition of a change. To this Mr. Pitt hesitated an objection, that certainly Lord Northumberland might be considered, but that he should not have thought of him for the treasury. Mr. Pitt said, "Suppose your majesty should think fit to give his lordship the Paymaster's place." The king replied, "But, Mr. Pitt, I had designed that for poor G. Grenville, he is your near relation, and you once loved him." To this the only answer made was a low bow. "But then," continued his majesty, "why should not lord Temple have the treasury? you could go on then very well." Mr. Pitt replied, "Sir, the person whom you shall think fit to honour with the chief conduct of your affairs cannot possibly go on without a treasury connected with him. But that alone will do nothing. It cannot be carried on without the great families, who have supported the revolution government, and other great persons of

whose abilities and integrity the public has had experience, and who have weight and credit in the nation. I should only deceive your majesty, if I should leave you in an opinion that I could go on, and your majesty make a solid administration on any other foot." "Well, Mr. Pitt," said his majesty, "I see this wont do, my honour is concerned, and I must support it." When Mr. Pitt gave in the names of those with whom he wished to form an administration, his majesty was so struck with the unreasonableness of the proposal, that he made the following memorable reply, and which bespeaks the real character of a patriot king. "Sir," said his majesty, "I believe, from my feelings as a man, I have offered as great sacrifices as ever monarch submitted to, merely for the good of my people, whose minds have been poisoned by ambitious and designing men, but you want to reduce me to such a situation, by disavowing my own act, and what my heart approves, and by giving up my friends to a vain and factious resentment, that I should be unworthy of ever having another friend, and you yourself must first despise, and then distrust me. *No, sir, my honour is irrevocably engaged.*"

Two days after, Mr. Pitt and lord Temple waited at St. James's to pay their respects to his majesty. They were graciously received. His majesty said to the former in the mildest manner, that he hoped he had not suffered by standing so long on Monday. Upon this occasion Mr. Pitt observed to his friends—His majesty is the greatest courtier in his court.

It may be confidently asserted without fear of contradiction, that no monarch ever sat upon the throne, who was more attentive to the morals of his court and of his household, than George III. At a very early period of his reign, he exhibited that strong abhorrence of gaming, which he preserved during the whole

tenor of his life. It had long been a custom at the English court, as well as every other court in Europe, to celebrate twelfth-day with religious ceremonials in the morning, and cheerful amusements in the evening. These his majesty never attempted to restrain, but when he found that the game of hazard was indiscriminately played throughout the palace, and that many thousands were lost under the appearance of the royal sanction, he was determined to correct the abuse. He first restricted the number of tables, then limited the hours of play, and lastly banished hazard altogether from his palaces. After this interdiction, which excited much discontent in the household, cards were substituted, but when his majesty found that the evil had only changed its name and appearance, and that deep play was still carried on at St. James's, an order was issued that no kind of gaming whatever should be permitted under the penalty of the person offending forfeiting his situation.

On the 19th of April his majesty went in state to the house of peers, and in the following most gracious speech closed the session of parliament.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot put an end to this session of parliament, without expressing my thanks for the signal zeal and despatch which you have manifested in your proceedings, and which make it unnecessary for me to continue it any longer.

I informed you at your first meeting, that preliminary articles were signed by my minister, and those of France and Spain; I ordered them to be laid before you, and the satisfaction which I felt at the approaching re-establishment of peace, upon conditions so honourable to the crown, and so beneficial to my people, was highly increased by my receiving from both houses of parliament the strongest, and most grateful expressions of their entire approbation. These articles have been established, and even rendered still more advantageous to my subjects by the definitive treaty, and my expectations have been

fully answered by the happy effects, which the several allies of my crown have derived from this salutary measure. The powers at war with my good brother the king of Prussia, have been induced to agree to such terms of accommodation, as that great prince has approved, and the success which has attended my negotiation, has necessarily and immediately diffused the blessings of peace through every part of Europe.

I acquainted you with my firm resolution to form my government on a plan of strict economy. The reductions necessary for this purpose shall be completed with all possible expedition: and although the army maintained in these kingdoms will be inferior in number to that usually kept up in former times of peace, yet I trust that the force proposed, with the establishment of the national militia (whose services I have experienced, and cannot too much commend) will prove a sufficient security for the future.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have seen with the highest concern, the great anticipations of the revenue, and the heavy debts unprovided for, during the late war, which have reduced you to the unhappy necessity of imposing further burthens upon my people. Under these circumstances, it is my earnest wish to contribute by every means to their relief. The utmost frugality shall be observed in the disposition of the supplies which you have granted; and when the accounts of the money arising from the sale of such prizes as are vested in the crown shall be closed, it is my intention to direct that the produce shall be applied to the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The extension of the commerce of my subjects; the improvement of the advantages we have obtained; and the increase of the public revenue, are the proper works of peace. To these important and necessary objects my attention shall be directed. I depend upon your constant care to promote in your several counties, that spirit of concord, and that obedience to law which is essential to good order, and to the happiness of my faithful subjects. It is your part to discourage every attempt of a contrary tendency: it shall be mine, firmly to maintain the honour of my crown, and to protect the rights of my people.

The month of August was again auspicious

to their majesties by the birth of another prince, her majesty being safely delivered at about ten o'clock, in the presence of her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales, and several lords of his majesty's most honourable privy-council; and on the 14th of September at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, his royal highness the prince of Wales, and his royal highness the prince his brother, (duke of York,) were brought from the Queen's Palace in the Park, to St. James's Palace. At a quarter after seven in the evening the procession, which preceded the baptism of the young prince commenced, the order of which was as follows:

Lady Augusta led by prince William, princess Louisa led by prince Henry, princess Matilda led by prince Frederick, and princess Amelia led by the duke of Cumberland; then followed a great number of the nobility, &c., who all went to the great council-chamber, where a very rich and grand canopy and bed were prepared. The ceremony of baptism was performed by his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, who christened his royal highness by the name of Frederick.

The sponsors were the duke of Cumberland, (by his proxy the lord Huntingdon), the duke of Saxe-Gotha (by his proxy the lord chamberlain), and the princess Amelia in person.

After the ceremony was over, the company, which was extremely brilliant, went into the queen's apartments, and were entertained with caudle and cake. It was observed that his royal highness the prince of Wales was placed all the while at her majesty's right hand.

The coverlid, vallens, and curtains, of the magnificent state-bed set up for the queen to sit on, were of the richest crimson velvet, adorned with gold fringes, and lined throughout with white satin; the counterpane was made of lace of inimitable workmanship, and alone cost

3,780*l*. It was presented to her majesty by a countrywoman of our own, as a specimen of our English taste, in original design, and a new species of painting brought by her to a degree of perfection; it met with a most gracious reception from their majesties, and the highest approbation of the queen, who ordered it immediately to be applied to the purpose for which it was intended, in honour of the English taste; she took great pleasure in pointing out its peculiar excellencies, how far it exceeded all other paintings in lustre and brilliancy of colouring; and in expressing how much she was charmed with it, and obliged by having an opportunity given her, on so tender an occasion, of shewing her partiality to the English; in which her majesty manifested her sincerity, by earnestly addressing herself to a foreign minister who stood near her, and saying, "Regard me, Sir; they can shew us nothing like this in France."

A particular circumstance of a private nature now took place which gave great umbrage to his majesty; this was the gift of the library of his late royal highness the prince of Wales to lord Bute. Whatever might have been his majesty's predilection for lord Bute, and certainly it cannot be denied that his lordship seized every opportunity of profiting by it, not only on his own account, but on that of his immediate connexions; yet, his majesty always entertained a particular regard for those objects which had been the property of his father, and over some of which his mother did not possess any testamentary right. The library was included in those things, and it was therefore with great surprize that his majesty heard that it had been disposed of as a gift, without even his sanction being asked; but the circumstance came to his knowledge too late, the library had been all removed, and it was discovered

by the king himself, during a visit which he paid to his mother. Lord Bute was informed of the displeasure which his majesty had expressed on the loss of the library, and requested immediate permission to restore it. "No," said his majesty nobly, "that would be committing my mother—the act is done, and I will not be the first to proclaim to the world that she has done wrong."

A short time afterwards lord Bute purchased the fine estate of Luton in Bedfordshire, for which he gave 90,000*l*.: on this coming to his majesty's ears, he most significantly said to his lordship, "Take care, my lord, that the people do not say you got your riches from the same quarter as you got your books."

On the 16th of November, 1763, his majesty came to the house of peers, and being in his royal robes seated on the throne with the usual solemnity, was pleased to make the following most gracious speech:

My lords and gentlemen,

The re-establishment of the public tranquillity, upon terms of honour and advantage to my kingdoms, was the first great object of my reign: that salutary measure has received the approbation of my parliament, and has since been happily completed, and carried into execution, by the definitive treaty. It has been, and shall be, my endeavour to ensure the continuance of the peace, by a faithful and steady adherence to the conditions upon which it was concluded; and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that the several powers of Europe, who were engaged against us in the late war, have given me the strongest assurances of the same good disposition. Our principal care ought now to be employed to improve the valuable acquisitions which we have made, and to cultivate the arts of peace in such a manner, as may most effectually contribute to extend the commerce, and to augment the happiness of my kingdoms.

For these great purposes I have called you together. It will ever be my earnest wish and endeavour to demonstrate to my people, by my actions, the love which I bear

them ; and, I doubt not of receiving from them the grateful and just returns of duty and affection.

Gentlemen of the house of commons,

I will order the proper estimates for the service of the year to be laid before you. The heavy debts contracted in the course of the late war, for many of which no provision is yet made, call for your utmost attention and the strictest frugality. I must however earnestly recommend to you the support of my fleet, to which our past successes have been so much owing, and upon which the future welfare and importance of Great Britain do most essentially depend. *To ease my people of some part of these burthens, I have directed, as I promised at the end of the last session of parliament, that the money arising from the sale of prizes vested in the crown, should be applied to the public service. It is my intention to reserve for the same use, whatever sums shall be produced by the sale of any of the lands belonging to me in the islands of the West Indies, which were ceded to us by the late treaty.*

The improvement of the public revenue, by such regulations as shall be judged most expedient for that purpose, deserves your serious consideration. This will be the surest means of reducing the national debt, and of relieving my subjects from those burthens, which the expences of the late war have brought upon them ; and will at the same time, establish the public credit upon the most solid foundation.

My lords and gentlemen,

As the interest and prosperity of my people are the sole objects of my care, I have only to desire, that you will pursue such measures as are conducive to those ends, with dispatch and unanimity. Domestic union will be essentially necessary to remedy those evils which are the consequences of war, to enable us to reap the most permanent advantages from the conclusion of the peace, and to discourage that licentious spirit, which is repugnant to the true principles of liberty, and of this happy constitution. In this opinion, I trust that my subjects will be confirmed by your example ; and that they will be taught by your proceedings, to unite their utmost endeavours to support such measures, as may equally tend to the honour and dignity of my crown, and to their own security and happiness.

We have been particular in giving this speech, as it is highly creditable to the character of the sovereign, in making such personal sacrifices for the good of his people. Had the example been followed at other periods of his reign, the country would not have rung with the complaints of the mal-appropriation of the droits of the admiralty. His majesty generously declares *that the money arising from the sale of the prizes vested in the crown should be applied to the public service.* This is the act of a patriot king, and it deserves to be recorded as a noble instance of a sacrifice of personal interest for the benefit of the public good.

In the month of January, 1764, the prince of Brunswick came to England to espouse the king's sister, the princess Augusta, and on Monday, the 16th, in the evening, the ceremony was performed in the great council-chamber by his grace the archbishop of Canterbury.

After the ceremony of the nuptials, their serene and royal highnesses remained at St. James's till nine, and then repaired to Leicester-House, where a grand supper was prepared ; at which were present their majesties, the princess dowager, princes William and Henry, and the rest of the royal family. Their majesties went away at twelve.

On this occasion, his majesty presented her royal highness the princess Augusta with a diamond necklace, worth 30,000*l.* ; her majesty with a gold watch, of exquisite workmanship, set with jewels ; the princess dowager of Wales with a diamond stomacher of immense value ; the princess Amelia with a casket of jewels, to the amount of 8,000*l.* ; and the duke of Cumberland with a set of jewels for her hair, worth 20,000*l.*

It was however, unfortunate for this prince, that he was the bearer of a complimentary mes-

sage from the king of Prussia to Mr. Pitt; and, after this circumstance was made known, he did not experience the most cordial reception at the British court; indeed, it was in fact broadly hinted to him, that a vessel was in readiness to convey him to the continent.

On the birth-day of the king in June, 1764, his majesty was agreeably surprised by a present from the queen, equally flattering to parental and conjugal love, consisting of a ring splendidly ornamented with brilliants and containing an emerald, in which were the portraits of their children. This was the more honourable to her majesty, as she gave the preference to English artists in the execution of this testimony of affectionate respect to her husband and sovereign.

We will not enter into any diffuse disquisition of the great political question, which at this time began to be agitated of the right of the mother country to the adoption of the system of colonial taxation; but no doubt whatever exists that it was a measure which seriously engrossed the attention of the king, soon after his accession to the throne; and, in the year 1764, immediately following the termination of the seven years' war, when the treasury was nearly exhausted, and the most rigid economy was necessary in every department of the state, his majesty mentioned it to his prime minister as a grand resource for the relief of the embarrassments at home, or, more properly speaking, for the winding up of the expenses of a war, which, in some respects, had a reference to the security of the American colonies, by repressing the intrusions of the French Canadians.

The prime minister, Grenville, was startled at hearing this proposition from the king, though not from its novelty; for the idea of American taxation was by no means a new one: for when Sir Robert Walpole, in 1733, failed in

his scheme of introducing the excise, one of the American governors proposed to him a tax upon that country; to which Walpole answered, "You see I have old England already set against me; do you think that I now wish to have new England set against me also." The king, however, listened with great patience to the objection of his minister, but still he was not convinced. In a short time, he introduced the subject a second time to Mr. Grenville, who still urged his objections; on which his majesty plainly told him, that, if he was disinclined or afraid to make the attempt, others would be found with sufficient resolution to carry it through. The minister had now no alternative, but to resign or to make the experiment. He adopted the latter. The American stamp-act was passed; and the consequences are too strongly impressed upon the minds of the people of this country to be here enlarged upon. Impartiality, however, obliges us to avow, that the system of colonial taxation was recommended by his late majesty; it was carried into effect against the advice of his then ministers, and it ultimately led to the loss of the brightest jewel in his crown.

"The spirit of discovery," says a cotemporary writer, "which had long animated the European nations, having, after its arduous and successful exertions during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, gradually subsided, and for a considerable time lain dormant, began to revive in Great Britain in the reign of George II., when two voyages for the discovery of a north-west passage took place, under Middleton and Smith. But it was reserved for the reign of George III., to see it recover all its former activity under his cherishing influence and munificent encouragement."

Having now happily closed the destructive operations of war, his majesty directed his

thoughts to enterprises more humane, but not less brilliant, and particularly adapted to the season of returning peace. "While every liberal act and useful study," says the learned editor of Cook's third voyage, "flourished under his patronage at home, his superintending care was extended to such branches of knowledge as required distant examination and inquiry; and his ships, after bringing back victory and conquest from every quarter of the known world, were now to be employed in opening friendly communications with distant regions which had been hitherto unexplored."

In consequence of this determination, commodore Byron departed in 1764, followed by captain Wallis, and successively by the immortal Cook, so that actually in little more than seven years, at the close of Cook's first voyage, discoveries were made far greater than those of all the navigators in the world collectively, since the expedition of Columbus, and the first discovery of America. These voyages were liberally conducted, and as liberally given to the world at large.

In the autumn of 1764, their majesties had an opportunity of testifying their benevolence towards a number of forlorn Germans who were thrown upon the humanity of the British nation, by an unprincipled adventurer, who had speculated deeply in American lands, and who had involved a considerable number in the vortex of his own ruin.

These Germans were natives of the palatinate of Bavaria, and the territory of Wurtzburg, in number about six hundred, and had been induced, under the most tempting offers and fallacious promises, to embark at one of the German ports, for the purpose of being conveyed to an island in the river St. Lawrence, in North America, and thence to be forwarded to the lands which had been purchased by their

employer. The vessel, however, instead of making direct for her destination, put into the river, and the whole band of Germans were sent on shore, with the exception of about two hundred, whose passage had not been previously paid, in the most destitute condition, and subject to the most severe privations.

Of those sent on shore, and who for some nights slept in the fields around Limehouse, the sufferings were extreme; mothers bringing forth in all the inclemency of the season, and expiring from the want of common necessities. An account of the dreadful state of these poor creatures was first made known to the public by a German pastor, through the medium of the daily papers, and the fact no sooner reached his majesty, than he instantly sent orders to the Tower for tents to be furnished, and he paid the passage money of those detained on board, directing also, that an immediate supply of provisions should be found to them, until a subscription should be completed, which the queen had begun amongst the nobility and gentry round the court, and to which the king subscribed 300*l.*, a similar sum being also paid by her majesty.

As the unhappy people had no wish to return home, an asylum was offered them in South Carolina and Georgia, of which they gladly accepted, and whither they were sent by the king's directions, and not only supplied with all necessary comforts during the passage, but also the requisite preparations were made for their immediate establishment on their arrival, by which they were enabled to maintain themselves.

It is, however, highly to be deplored that it is the employment of certain depraved and prejudiced persons to attach a false construction to an action, and to rob it of every particle of merit which belongs to it. The relief was

no sooner granted to the Germans, than it was immediately construed into a neglect of native indigence; and, the very circumstance which ought to have exalted their majesties in the eyes of the people, was by the hirelings of a certain party converted into an engine of accusation against them. The ears of their majesties were now assailed with reports of the distresses of the lower classes of the English people; their sufferings were represented to be even greater than those of the Germans, and every insidious attempt was made to prove that the subscription for the Germans was merely set on foot on account of their being countrymen of her majesty; but, that when a representation was made of the sufferings of the English, a deaf and callous ear was turned to it. Such was the reward which their majesties obtained for a distinguished act of benevolence.

The 1st of January being new-year's day, their majesties and the royal family attended the Chapel Royal at St. James's, when the following Ode by G. W. Whitehead, the poet laureat, was performed before them:

Sacred to thee,
O Commerce, daughter of sweet liberty,
Shall flow the annual strain!—
Beneath a monarch's fostering care
Thy sails unnumber'd swell in air,
And darken half the main.
From every cliff of Britain's coasts
We see them toil, thy daring hosts
Who bid our wealth increase
Who spread our martial glory far,—
The sons of fortitude in war,
Of industry in peace.

On woven wings,
To where, in orient clime, the grey dawn springs,
To where soft evening's ray
Sheds its last blush, their course they steer,
Meet, or o'ertake, the circling year,
Led by the lord of day.

Whate'er the frozen poles provide,
Whate'er the torrid regions hide
From Sirius' fiercer flames,
Of herb, or root, or gem, or ore,
They grasp them all, from shore to shore,
And waft them all to Thames.

When Spain's proud pendants wav'd in western skies,
When Gama's fleet on Indian billows hung,
In either sea did Ocean's genius rise,
And the same truths in the same numbers sung.

“Daring mortals, whither tend
These vain pursuits? forbear, forbear!
These sacred waves no keel shall rend,
No streamers float on this sequester'd air!
—Yes, yes, proceed, and conquer too:
Success be yours: But, mortals, know,

Know, ye rash adventurous bands,
To crush your high-blown pride.
Not for yourselves, or native lands,
You brave the seasons, and you stem the tide.
Nor Betis', nor Iberus' stream,
Nor Tagus with his golden gleam,
Shall insolently call their own
The dear-bought treasures of these worlds unknown.
A chosen race to freedom dear,
Untaught to injure, as to fear,
By me conducted, shall exert their claims,
Shall glut my great revenge, and roll them all to Thames.

The 6th being twelfth-day, it was observed as a high festival, and his majesty after divine service made the customary offering of gold, frank incense, and myrrh.

On the 10th, his majesty went to the house of peers, and opened the sessions with the following most gracious speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen,
The situation of affairs, both at home and abroad, has enabled me to allow you that recess, which has been usual in times of public tranquillity.

I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that I have agreed with my good brother the king of Denmark, to cement the union which has long subsisted between the two crowns, by the marriage of the prince royal of Denmark with my sister the princess Caroline Matilda,

which is to be solemnized as soon as their respective ages will permit.

I observe with pleasure, that the events which have happened in the course of the last year, give us reason to hope for the duration of that peace which has been so happily established, and which it is my resolution strictly to maintain. The courts of France and Spain have given me fresh assurances of their good dispositions. The future quiet of the empire has been confirmed by the unanimous choice of a successor to the imperial dignity; and the peaceable election of the king of Poland has prevented those fatal consequences, which, upon similar occasions, have so frequently been destructive to the repose of Europe. I am happy, therefore, to meet my parliament at a time when no foreign disturbances interrupt their consultations for the internal good order and prosperity of my kingdoms.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I shall ask of you, for the current service of the year, no other supplies than such as are necessary for those establishments which have already met with your approbation; and I will order the proper estimates for this purpose to be laid before you.

I must, however, earnestly recommend to you the continuance of that attention which you have hitherto shewn for the improvement of the public revenue, and the diminution of the national debt. For these desirable and necessary ends, I am persuaded that you will pursue every proper measure which the state of my dominions, and the circumstances of the times may require.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The experience which I have had of your former conduct makes me rely on your wisdom and firmness, in promoting that obedience to the laws, and respect to the legislative authority of this kingdom, which is essentially necessary for the safety of the whole; and, in establishing such regulations as may best connect and strengthen every part of my dominions, for their mutual benefit and support.

The affection which I bear to my people excites my earnest wishes, that every session of parliament may be distinguished by some plans for the public advantage, and for their relief from those difficulties which an expensive war has brought upon them. My concurrence and encouragement shall never be wanting where their welfare is concerned; and I trust that for the attainment of that

great object, you will proceed with temper, unanimity, and despatch.

On the 26th, his majesty granted his royal charter to the Society of Arts in Great Britain; but neither his attention to the arts and sciences, his acts of benevolence, nor the virtues of his private life, could secure him from the diabolical spirit of revolution that had already begun to manifest itself, particularly on the 29th of January, when hand-bills were distributed through the metropolis to a great extent, on which was printed, in capitals,

THIS DAY—LIBERTY!

a proceeding evidently connected with the machinations of Wilkes, and his adherents for reform.

In the month of February, a most ridiculous petition was presented to the king by the peruke makers, stating their distressed condition, occasioned by so many people wearing their own hair, and employing foreigners to cut and dress it, or when they employed natives, obliging them to work on the Lord's-day, to the total neglect of their duty to God; they therefore humbly beseeched his majesty that he would be pleased to grant them relief, submitting to his majesty's wisdom and goodness, whether his own example was not the only means of rescuing them from their distresses, as far as it occasioned so many people wearing their own hair.

The deputation, although on so absurd a principle, was graciously received, and his majesty returned for answer, "That he had nothing dearer to his heart than the happiness of his people, and that they may be assured he should at all times use his endeavours to promote their welfare." Several of the adventurous barbers who attended on this occasion, gave such offence by their inconsistency in wearing their own hair, that it was cut off by the mob on their return.

His majesty was not unmindful of the promise he had given to the fraternity, at least if we may judge from some of his public exhibitions, on which he appears to have sacrificed every thing like personal vanity to his reverence for wigs. On one occasion in the house of lords, and on another at the installation of the knights of the garter at Windsor, he wore a powdered dress wig of George II., which was amazingly out of harmony with the rest of his costume. It resembled a large spherical mass of snow descending between the shoulders in the form of an inverted cone, and the appearance was not improved by the pressure of a heavy cap and plume. The court ladies feelingly regretted the absence of the black rosette and flowing curls, which are always to be seen in portraits of modern robed sovereigns and knights.

On the following day, the hatters petitioned his majesty for redress, on account of their business having been engrossed by foreigners, to the ruin of many hundred of his majesty's subjects. His majesty received their deputation also very graciously, and when they had retired, he jocosely exclaimed, "What trade next?"

The first public address presented to the young prince of Wales, was on the 1st of March, which being St. David's day, Herbert Thomas, esq. treasurer, and the rest of the stewards of the society of Ancient Britons, erected for the support of the Welch Charity-school on Clerkenwell-green, Middlesex, went in procession to St. James's, where they were admitted to see the prince of Wales, and kiss his hand; and then presented his royal highness with the following address:

May it please your Royal Highness,

The members of the society who have now the honour to approach the presence of your royal highness, do it

with hearts full of zeal for the prosperity of your august parents, the person of your royal highness, and every branch of the royal family.

United as they are in their sentiments of loyalty and charity, they hope for the protection and implore the patronage of your royal highness, for an institution that educates, clothes, and supports many poor destitute natives of that principality, from which your royal highness derives your most distinguished title.

Your royal parents remember no period of their lives too early for doing good; and when a few years shall call forth your virtues into action, your royal highness may perhaps with satisfaction reflect upon your faithful Ancient Britons thus laying themselves at your feet.

To which address his royal highness made the following answer with the greatest propriety, attended with a suitable action:

Gentlemen,

I thank you for this mark of your duty to the king, and and wish prosperity to this charity.

His royal highness was then most graciously pleased to present the treasurer with an hundred guineas for the use of the charity.

Early in the month of April 1765, his majesty was afflicted by an alarming disorder, and anxious as the people might be for his majesty's health and life, he appears to have been equally so for their safety and welfare, from motives of princely duty and parental affection, joined to that tender concern for his children and family, which notwithstanding the rant of some writers who would have a king to be destitute of all domestic feelings, no sober man would seriously wish to see a king deficient in, since it is by what a monarch feels in his own breast that he can alone form any judgment of what his subjects must feel in theirs; and, therefore, notwithstanding his wishes might be good, he might without such feelings often mistake the means of making them happy.

Till the reign of George II. it had been usual with the kings of England to appoint by their own mere motion and authority, regents to their dominions, and guardians to their heirs, in case of their succeeding to the crown at an age too feeble to bear the weight of it. But trusts of this kind had been so often altered by parliament, or abused by the trustees to the disadvantage of their pupils and the people, for want of a legal check upon them, that it now appeared high time to pursue some middle course, in which whatever share of choice the king might part with, it should be made up to him by the stability of what he retained, and the subjects at the same time indulged with such a participation of a trust so highly concerning them, as might seem their due in virtue of the late alterations made in the Constitution for their benefit. This important end it is plain could only be obtained by an act of the legislature, in which the parliament should confirm the king's nomination of a regent and guardian, or approve of a certain number of persons for his majesty to choose some one or other of them, whom he might think the most proper to trust with so momentous a charge. And, as his making known his nomination of any one single person, and still more that nomination being confirmed by parliament, might create expectations of the late king's death injurious to his life; the latter method was thought the most eligible, and it was accordingly the same as pursued on the death of the prince of Wales, father to our late sovereign.

It could not be expected that George II. should be more anxious for the safety and welfare of his grandchildren, and of the subjects amongst whom he was not born, than George III. for that of his immediate issue, and of a people whom he was pleased to glory

in calling his countrymen, and to whom he had given so many proofs of his really considering them as such. The measures, therefore, so wisely pursued in the reign of George II. could not fail of being adopted in that of his illustrious successor. Accordingly, at the first audience with which he honoured his ministry after his recovery, he took a paper out of his pocket containing a speech to both houses of parliament, and this paper his majesty left with the ministers, having previously fixed the day for going to the house. As this was the first notice administration had received of this design, they were thrown into considerable surprise.

The speech was written, and the measure was formed without their participation or even their knowledge.

Accordingly, on the 24th April, his majesty repaired to parliament, and delivered the following most gracious speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The tender concern, which I feel for my faithful subjects, makes me anxious to provide for every possible event, which may affect their future happiness or security.

My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdoms, and my family might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life, whilst my successor is of tender years.

The high importance of this subject to the public safety, good order, and tranquillity; the paternal affection which I bear to my children, and to all my people; and my earnest desire, that every precaution should be taken, which may tend to preserve the constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its crown unimpaired; have determined me to lay this weighty business before my parliament. And as my health, by the blessing of God, is now restored, I take the earliest opportunity of meeting you here, and of recommending to your most serious deliberation the making such provision, as would be necessary, in case

any of my children should succeed to the throne, before they shall respectively attain the age of eighteen years.

To this end, I propose to your consideration, whether under the present circumstances, it will not be expedient to vest in me the power of appointing, from time to time, by instruments in writing, under my sign manual, either the queen, or any other person of my royal family usually residing in Great Britain, to be the guardian of the person of such successor, and the regent of these kingdoms, until such successor shall attain the age of eighteen years; subject to the like restrictions and regulations, as are specified and contained in an act passed upon a similar occasion, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of the late king, my royal grand-father: the regent so appointed to be assisted by a council, composed of the several persons, who, by reason of their dignities and offices, are constituted members of the council established by that act, together with those whom you may think proper to leave to my nomination.

This affecting and gracious speech having been answered as soon as forms would admit, by a joint address from both houses, well adapted to express those sentiments which it deserved, and those sensations which the occasion of it had so justly excited, the lords ordered a bill to be brought in, in conformity to his majesty's speech; and when it had passed their house, it was forwarded to the commons, who being early apprised of their lordship's having taken up the matter beforehand, deferred all consideration of the matter, until some further communication was made from their lordships.

It were natural to imagine, that it being the customary business of the immediate servants of the crown and the secretaries of state to move affairs of this nature, that this bill would not only have been brought into the upper house, but that it would have been passed in such a form as would do justice to that wisdom and goodness manifested by his majesty on every occasion in which the happiness of his

people was concerned. But so far from this being the case, no person, according to this bill in the form it had passed the house of lords, could be named guardian and agent except the queen, or some one of the royal family descended from the late king, whose usual residence at the time of passing this act should have been, and from thenceforth, until such nomination, should continue to be in Great Britain; nor any of his majesty's family appointed of the council of regency, along with the great officers of state, except his majesty's brothers, and his uncle the duke of Cumberland; nor any person permitted to be named by his majesty to succeed them in case of death, that was not a natural born subject of the realm; by which clauses, the princess of Wales was not only set aside as guardian or regent, but even, as not being born in the British dominions, though naturalized by act of parliament, utterly excluded from the council of regency, though next to the queen she must be allowed to be the person whom it is most natural for his majesty to wish invested with these trusts, as one to whom, next to their own mother, the lives and safety of his children could not fail of being dearest; not to mention her inability to succeed to the throne, and which, therefore, in less virtuous times, and in a less virtuous family than the royal family of Great Britain, might be an equal motive to the naming of her.

Notwithstanding these sacrifices made of his majesty's most tender feelings, the bill sent down by the house of lords had scarcely been read in the house of commons when a motion was made to address his majesty, that, out of his tender and paternal regard for his people, he would be graciously pleased to name the person or persons, whom in his royal wisdom he should think fit to propose to the consideration of parliament, for the execution of the high

trusts of guardian and regent, the house apprehending it not warranted by precedent, nor agreeable to the principles of the free constitution of Great Britain, to vest such trusts in any person or persons, not particularly named and approved of in parliament.

Not only this motion, as placing the affair in a very wrong light, passed in the negative by a very great majority; but, as it were to make his majesty's family some amends for the many insults offered to it by one, who had belonged to that house, and by many of the unthinking people represented by it, the princess dowager of Wales was named next after the queen as one of the persons, whom his majesty might appoint to the guardianship of his successors under age, and to the regency of his realms. This, however, did not pass without such a debate, as rendered it improper to insist upon any further amendment; so that, whatever desire the friends of the royal family might have to secure to the princess of Wales a seat in the council of regency, or at least a door to it, they thought it most expedient not to propose it at present. The bill, therefore, without any other amendment, was returned to the house of lords; and, that amendment being approved by their lordships, received the royal assent on the 15th of May, 1765.

The passing of this bill was followed by a complete change in the ministry. Lord Bute had indeed resigned his ministerial situation, yet he was still supposed to be the private director of the political machine, and in consequence his majesty was assailed by all the rancor of party spirit. That a strong degree of friendship subsisted between his majesty and lord Bute cannot be denied, and the almost daily visits of lord Bute to the residence of the princess dowager when the king was known to be there, gave some colour to the insinuations

which were so industriously thrown out, and all of which had a tendency to degrade the monarch in the estimation of the public.

A very erroneous opinion was, however, formed of his majesty's character on this occasion, as the following anecdote will testify. There is no doubt that the princess dowager used all her influence to obtain the return of lord Bute to office, to which she strongly instigated that nobleman himself. A plan was therefore laid to take the king by surprise, according to which lord Bute should, as if by chance, obtain permission to see the first despatches received by the king whilst at Carlton-house, it being frequently the custom for the secretary of state to transmit them at those periods. No sooner did the green box, with letters and papers, make its appearance, than the king, as usual, rose up to retire into another apartment, in order to peruse them alone. Lord Bute, however, in the most officious manner, took up two candles, and preceded the king, as if, going to his closet, in the hope that the king would desire him to remain in the room, and acquaint him with the contents, by which means he might slide into political business without any formality. But the young monarch was on his guard, and stopping at the door of the apartment, took the candles himself, bowed dismissal to the candidate and shut the door, a hint fully understood and considered as a final rejection.

The general tenor of the early part of his majesty's life, appears to have been founded upon the pure principles of virtue and religion; his memorable proclamation, on his accession to the throne, against vice and immorality, will ever stand on record as a proof of the excellence of his dispositions; and as a further corroboration of the integrity of his principles, his majesty says, in his letter to the General

Assembly of the Church of Scotland, dated the 30th of April, 1765 :

“ We need not recommend the avoiding of all contention and unedifying debates, to those who have no other object in their view than the suppressing licentiousness, immorality, and vice, and who are actuated by no other zeal, than that which tends to the advancement of true religion, and consequently to the general peace and happiness of society.

“ No religion can be sincere, which does not require a conscientious discharge of the duties it prescribes. No government can be steady which is not founded upon maxims of public liberty under the influence and restriction of wholesome laws. The purity of the Christian faith is distinguished by the first; the happiness of the British constitution is derived from the second. It is by infusing into the minds of the people committed to your care, these civil and religious principles, so essential to their happiness, both here and hereafter, that you will be effectually intitled to our favour.”

His majesty now began to testify a particular coolness towards his ministers, which the long sunshine of favour that had preceded it could not but render extremely mortifying; but it was a matter of surprise at the time, that however unpleasant that coolness must have been, they were nevertheless induced to take a step the very reverse of what their situation seemed to require. For whether they considered that the king's coolness to them proceeded from lord Bute, who was still suspected of enjoying the private confidence of his majesty, notwithstanding his retirement from court, and therefore were willing to shew their resentment against him, or whether they imagined it must terminate in their own dismissal, and were desirous of recovering beforehand the good graces of the people by a blow at the object of their aversion,

they contrived to turn out Mr. Mackenzie, lord Bute's brother, from a very honourable and lucrative employment enjoyed by him in Scotland, and in the discharge of which not the least complaint had ever been urged against him.

But it was impossible this step should not be considered by his majesty as an affront and insult to his person and dignity; the king's coolness changed to resentment, and the people's aversion to contempt.

In consequence of these open and avowed acts of hostility to lord Bute, a resolution was taken to open another negotiation with Mr. Pitt. The king undertook this negotiation himself, and sent for Mr. Pitt, and he accordingly waited upon his majesty. The consequence of this audience was the sending for lord Temple: and on the 25th they waited on his majesty, when he proposed the following conditions to them :

1. Lord Bute's brother to be restored.
2. Lord Northumberland to be lord chamberlain.
3. The king's friends to continue in their present situations.

Mr. Pitt rejected the conditions, and his majesty's negotiation failed. The king having resolved to part with his ministers, he applied to the duke of Cumberland, giving him full powers to form an administration, which terminated in what has been generally known by the name of “ The Rockingham Administration.”

On Saturday the 25th of May, his majesty prorogued the parliament with the following gracious speech :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The despatch which you have given with so much zeal and wisdom to the public business, enables me now to put a period to this session of parliament.

No alteration in the state of foreign affairs has hap-

pened since your meeting to disturb the general peace ; and it is with pleasure that I inform you, that the present dispositions of the several powers of Europe promise the continuance of this blessing.

I have seen with the most perfect approbation, that you have employed this season of tranquillity in promoting those objects which I had recommended to your attention ; and, in framing such regulations, as may best enforce the just authority of the legislature, and at the same time secure and extend the commerce, and unite the interests of every part of my dominions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The cheerfulness and prudence which you have shewn in providing for the necessary expenses of the present year, deserve my particular acknowledgments. The many bills which you have formed for the improvement and augmentation of the revenue in its several branches, and the early care which you have to discharge a part of the national debt, are the most effectual methods to establish the public credit upon the surest foundations, and to alleviate by degrees the burthens of my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The provisions which have been made for the administration of the government, in case the crown should descend to any of my children under the age of eighteen years, whilst they add strength and security to our present establishment, give me the kindest and most convincing proof of your confidence. The sense which I have of the important trust reposed in me, and my desire to repay this mark of your affection by discharging my part, agreeably to your intentions, in the manner most beneficial to my people, have concurred to make me execute without delay the powers with which you have entrusted me. This is already done ; and you may be assured, that, as far as it depends upon me, those salutary provisions shall never be ineffectual. It is my ardent wish, and shall be my constant endeavour on this and every other occasion, to perpetuate the happiness of my subjects, and to transmit to posterity the blessings of our invaluable constitution.

His majesty resolved to solemnize his birthday, on the 4th of June, with unusual grandeur ; and, as some very serious complaints had been urged by the manufacturers, in regard to the preference shewn to foreign articles, his majesty

announced that nothing but British manufacture should be worn at court ; in consequence, not a single French suit of clothes was to be seen. The illuminations on this occasion were superior to any that had ever been witnessed before.

In the morning the following Ode was performed before their majesties :

I.

Hail to the rosy morn, whose ray
To lustre wakes th' auspicious day
Which Britain holds so dear !
To this fair month of right belong
The festive dance, the choral song,
And pastimes of the year.
Whate'er the wint'ry colds prepar'd,
Whate'er the spring but faintly reared,
Now wears its brightest bloom ;
A brighter blue enrobes the skies,
From laughing fields the zephyrs rise
On wings that breathe perfume.
The lark, in air that warbling floats,
The wood-birds, with their tuneful throats,
The streams, that murmur as they flow,
The flocks, that rove the mountain's brow,
The herds, that thro' the meadows play,
Proclaim 'tis Nature's holiday !

II.

And shall the British lyre be mute,
Nor thrill through all its trembling strings,
With oaten reed, and pastoral flute,
Whilst every vale responsive rings ?
To Him we pour the grateful lay,
Who makes the season doubly gay ;
For whom, so late, our lifted eyes
With tears besought the pitying skies,
And won the cherub Health to crown
A nation's prayer, and ease that breast
Which feels all sorrows but its own,
And seeks, by blessing to be bless'd.
Fled are all the ghastly train,
Writhing pain, and pale disease ;
Joy resumes his wonted reign,
The sunbeams mingle with the breeze,
And his own month, which health's gay livery wears,
On the sweet prospect smiles of long succeeding years.

On the 15th of August, the birth-day of his royal highness prince Frederick, bishop of Osnaburg, his majesty distributed gold and silver medals at court, in commemoration of his election to that dignity. The rights, however, of his majesty's son to that bishopric were disputed, and it involved his majesty in a litigation with the German empire. It is true that the ecclesiastical chapter obeyed his *Congé d'être* in the nomination to the princely mitre, but an unwillingness was shewn to give up the management of the revenues during the minority of the young bishop. The business was at last arranged in an amicable manner by an appeal to the judicature of the German empire.

About two in the morning of the 21st, her majesty being taken in labour, messages were sent to her royal highness the princess of Wales, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, the two secretaries of state, the earl of Hertford, and several more of the privy council, to acquaint them therewith, who all attended with the utmost expedition, and a quarter before four her majesty was safely delivered of a prince, who was, on the 20th of the following month, baptized in the great council-chamber at St. James's, by his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, by the name of William Henry, in the presence of their majesties, the whole royal family, and a very illustrious assembly of the nobility and foreign ministers. The sponsors were, his royal highness the duke of Gloucester, prince Henry Frederick, and the princess of Brunswick.

On the 28th, the city of London waited on his majesty with the following very remarkable address on the birth of the young prince :

Most gracious sovereign,

We, your majesty's ever loyal and faithful subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common council assembled, humbly beseech your majesty to accept our most sincere and dutiful con-

gratulations on the safe delivery of the queen, and the auspicious birth of another prince.

The joyful event of an increase in your majesty's illustrious family will always be gratefully considered by us as a further substantial security to the civil and religious liberties of this your majesty's free and native country.

Every addition to your majesty's domestic happiness fills our hearts with the highest pleasure and satisfaction ; and fully confiding, that your majesty's royal sentiments ever coincide with the united wishes of your faithful people, we gladly embrace every opportunity of testifying our joy, and laying our congratulations at your majesty's feet.

Permit us, therefore, royal sir, to assure your majesty that your faithful citizens of London, from their zealous attachment to your royal house, *and the true honour and dignity of your crown, whenever a happy establishment of public measures shall present a favourable occasion,* will be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise councils, as apparently tend to render your majesty's reign happy and glorious.

His majesty's most gracious answer :

I thank you for this dutiful address. Your congratulations on the further increase of my family, and your assurances of zealous attachment to it, cannot but be very agreeable to me.—I have nothing so much at heart as the welfare and happiness of my people ; and have the greatest satisfaction in every event that may be an additional security to those civil and religious liberties, upon which the prosperity of these kingdoms depends.

The ministers were decidedly against his majesty receiving this address at all, but the king on this occasion testified a firmness which reflects the highest credit on his character ; he was determined, he said, not to make, by his refusal, a large body of people uneasy for the weakness of a few, and therefore he resolved to accept of it, but at the same time he expressed his wishes that the address had been worded in rather a more respectful manner towards himself.

Sir Robert Ladbroke, then one of the aldermen and members for the city of London, on

being informed of the wording of the address, exclaimed "*Well, thank God, I had no hand in the proceeding.*" The king in his answer took no notice whatever of the allusion.

Towards the close of the year, his majesty experienced a domestic affliction in the death of the duke of Cumberland. His royal highness was at court in the morning, dined with lord Albemarle in the afternoon, and drank tea with the princess of Brunswick at St. James's; from whence he came to his own house in the evening, to be present at a council to be held on affairs of state. As soon as he came in, he complained of a pain in the shoulder, with a cold and shivering fit, and desired to be laid on the couch, which was done; and sir Charles Winteringham, the king's physician, being sent for, advised, bleeding; but, in about twenty minutes his royal highness expired, without the least struggle.

His majesty's conduct, on this occasion, was truly exemplary, for when lord Albemarle, the executor, presented him with the key of his uncle's cabinet, he immediately requested that nobleman to keep the key in his own possession, and to use his own judgment in examining all private papers, and in destroying all such as the duke himself might have wished to keep secret.

On the 17th of December, his majesty went to the house of peers, and opened the session by a most gracious speech, in which he acquainted the parliament, that, contrary to his expectations, he found himself obliged by some advices from the American colonies to meet them earlier than usual, in order to give an opportunity for filling up the many vacancies in the house of commons, that the parliament might be full to proceed, immediately after the usual recess, on the consideration of such weighty matters, as should then be laid before them.

On the 25th, at noon, their majesties went to the chapel royal, where, after hearing a sermon by the archbishop of York (lord high almoner) they received the sacrament from the bishop of London (dean of the chapel), after which his majesty made the usual offering, at the altar, of a wedge of gold called the Byzant.

His royal highness the prince of Wales, and his serene highness the hereditary prince of Brunswick, and the right honourable the earl of Albemarle, were, on the 26th, invested by his majesty with the most noble order of the garter.

It was in the year 1766 that his majesty was destined to experience considerable affliction, in consequence of the brutal treatment of his sister the princess Matilda, by Christian the VIIth. of Denmark. This princess when only fifteen years of age, became the wife of a prince of habits utterly irreconcilable with the happiness of domestic life. Ere the honeymoon was past she was neglected, that her husband might indulge in the grossest sensuality; and, so dissolute were his habits, that when he visited England two years after his marriage, he is said to have mixed with the most depraved company, and often to have joined in the midnight revels of St. Giles's, disguised as a sailor. Soon after, through the intrigues of the king's stepmother, who was anxious that her son should succeed to the throne of Denmark, a charge of so serious nature was raised against the character of Matilda, that she was thrown into the prison of Cronenburg.

This afflicting and degrading circumstance came to the knowledge of George III., and his majesty immediately interposed with great spirit in behalf of his injured sister, and in the end was the means of procuring a material mitigation of her unhappy destiny. His ma-

jesty instructed his ambassador at the Danish court to make the most indignant remonstrances, and an order was given for the queen's liberation, with permission to retire to Zell, where a separate establishment suitable to her rank was to be provided for her. The British ambassador himself hastened with these tidings to Cronenburg. The queen had been permitted to inhabit the governor's apartment, and to walk upon the side batteries, or upon the leads of the tower. She was uncertain of the fate that awaited her, although she was aware that her noble-minded brother had interested himself in her behalf, she had, however, great reason to apprehend that the party which had caused her arrest meditated still more violent measures. When the English ambassador arrived with the orders for her enlargement, she was so surprised with the unexpected intelligence, that she instantly burst into a flood of tears—embraced him in a transport of joy, and called him her deliverer. After a short conference, the minister proposed, according to the secret instructions which had been sent to him by his king, that her majesty should immediately embark on board of a ship that was waiting to carry her from a kingdom in which she had experienced such an accumulated train of misfortunes. But however anxious she was to depart, one circumstance checked the excess of her joy. A few months before her imprisonment, she had been delivered of a princess, whom she suckled herself. The rearing of this child had been her only comfort, and she had conceived a more than parental attachment to it, from its having been the constant companion of her misery. These circumstances had so endeared the child to her, that when an order for detaining the young princess was intimated to her, she testified the strongest emotions of grief, and could not for

some time be prevailed upon to bid a final adieu. At length, after bestowing repeated caresses upon this darling object of her affections, she retired to the vessel in an agony of despair. She remained upon deck, her eyes immovably directed towards the palace of Cronenburg, where she had left her child, until darkness intercepted her view. The vessel having made but little way during the night, at day-break she observed with fond satisfaction that the palace was still visible, and could not be persuaded to descend to the cabin as long as she could discover the feeblest glimpse of the battlements.

The heart of his majesty was of too tender a nature not to feel an excess of joy in having been the means of saving his sister from perhaps an ignominious death, and he even projected a journey to Germany for the purpose of visiting her, and on which occasion it was his intention to take formal possession of his electoral dominions. The state of the political world at home, however, obliged him to relinquish this design, and he never afterwards put it into execution.

Parliament met for the despatch of business on the 14th January 1766, and the session was opened with a speech from the throne. On the usual motion for an address, the friends of the new ministry spoke very tenderly of the disturbances raised in America in opposition to the stamp-act, terming them only *occurrences*, which gave great offence to the friends of the late ministry by whom that act had been passed. In Mr. Pitt's memorable speech against the American stamp-act, he took an opportunity of eulogising the Scottish nation, which at this time was highly unpopular in consequence of the preponderating influence of lord Bute, and the marked preference which was given to the natives of that country over the English.

Mr. Pitt expressed himself in the following manner :

“ There is a clause in the act of settlement, to oblige every minister to sign his name to the advice which he gives his sovereign. Would it were observed !—I have had the honour to serve the crown, and if I could have submitted to influence, I might have still continued to serve ; but I would not be responsible for others.—I have no local attachments ; it is indifferent to me whether a man was rocked in his cradle on this side or that side of the Tweed. I sought for merit wherever it was to be found. It is my boast that I was the first minister who looked for it, and I found it in the mountains of the north. I called it forth, and drew it into your service, an hardy and intrepid race of men !—men, who, when left by your jealousy, became a prey to the artifices of your enemies, and had gone nigh to have overturned the state in the war before the last. These men, in the last war, were brought to combat on your side : they served with fidelity, as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world : detested be the national reflections against them !—they are unjust, groundless, illiberal, unmanly. When I ceased to serve his majesty as a minister, it was not the *country* of the man by which I was moved—but *the man* of that country wanted ; *wisdom*, and held principles incompatible with *freedom*.”

This eulogium of Mr. Pitt of the natives of a country to which his majesty had also testified particular partiality, raised him many degrees in the good opinion of his sovereign, but he was so unfortunate as to lose it again on account of the strenuous support which he gave to the bill for the repeal of the stamp-act. Indeed, during the progress of that bill, it was strongly insinuated in parliament, that the bill was very far from being agreeable to the king,

upon which lord Rockingham asserted, that his majesty's approbation of the measure was clear and unequivocal. On the following day, lord Strange maintained the contrary—that his majesty highly disapproved of the bill. Lord Rockingham was greatly surprised at this explicit declaration of lord Strange, and, at his next audience of the king, he requested the honour of his majesty's opinion in writing, which the king refused to give ; however, it was subsequently discovered that the king had a change of ministers in contemplation, in consequence of the support which was given by the ministers of the day to the repeal of the stamp-act.

Whatever degree of unpopularity his majesty was at this time doomed to endure, it certainly by no means originated in any imputed dereliction of his duties as a man, a father, or a husband. If during the turbulent years of his early reign, or afterwards during the tempest of the French Revolution, his popularity was partially obscured for a moment, it was but for a moment, and the clouds passed away never to return. If the cause of this unpopularity be asked, it appears to be a matter of no difficulty to supply an answer ; *his character was minutely and essentially British*. He comprehended in himself, to an almost unexampled extent, those high, holy, and valuable qualities which by the general consent of the wise and good among us, are considered as constituting the perfect Englishman. If we examine these qualities a little more minutely, we shall find that our late monarch was eminently *simple* in all his pursuits, tastes, and employments. Although he by no means threw away the necessary insignia of royalty—those wholesome distinctions which mark the gradations of rank, and which are never trampled upon with impunity—yet, a character of perfect simplicity

reigned through every part of his conduct. He assumed no unnecessary pomp: he invested himself with no superfluous splendour. As the celebrated dictator of the Roman empire was found in the season of his relaxation at the plough, so the monarch of this great empire delighted to sink from the sovereign into the private man. He ascended the throne when circumstances required it, with the majesty of one born to command; but he evidently loved to take a lower place. He bore the sceptre with unusual dignity, but plainly rejoiced when the hour arrived for laying it down.

But amongst the virtues which distinguished our late sovereign, was that of constancy and fidelity to his friends. The love of change and novelty is one of the most common passions of our corrupt nature, and where all are soliciting our esteem, how strong is the temptation to transfer it to new objects, to shake off the troublesome or expensive dependant, and substitute those who cannot have any pretensions to ask favours, because they have not done any thing to deserve them. But the fiercest calumniators of the throne, and where is the throne without them, never attempted to fasten this stigma on our deceased sovereign. They reproached what they called his obstinacy, but never his constancy or fidelity. The friends of the first years of his reign were, as far as Providence had spared them, the friends of his growing years; and amidst the illusions of that disease which clouded the latter period of his existence, it is said that he would call up from the dead the early sharers of his counsel and regard, and converse with them as with spirits in glory. It was a reward mercifully vouchsafed to his constancy, that those early friends did not haunt him as enemies, but met him with countenances of gratitude and love.

But we will take into our consideration that

quality in our late monarch, without which no genuine Englishman—no Englishman cast in the mould of the good old time of the Reformation, would consent to consider the character of their fellow-countryman as complete—that quality which is in fact the basis of all that is good and great in the mind and habits of man. Our late king was a man of scriptural, habitual, practical piety. In saying that his religion was *scriptural*, much is meant in the expression. His principles, views, tastes, interpretations of doctrine, and conceptions of practice, were faithfully, simply, exclusively drawn from holy writ. He regarded with alarm the slightest deviation from a scriptural model. He has been heard to express a wish to hear less of Socrates, and more of Christ, in the pulpit; he was deeply attached to the formularies and homilies of our own church—compositions which it is impossible to estimate too highly, and of the authors of which it may be said, that having as it were stepped *first* into the troubled pool at the period of the Reformation, they appear beyond all others to have experienced its healing efficacy. Our sovereign is reported himself to have said of these early writers, “There were giants on the earth in those days.” Using then the scripture as his rule, and the fathers of the church as his chief interpreters, he had arrived at the clear recognition of all the leading doctrines of christianity—the corruption of the human heart,—the necessity of pardon through the atonement of a Saviour, and of the change and renewal of the man by the power and the influence of the Holy Ghost. He is known to have hung over the bed of a dying child, and there with solemn emphasis to have inculcated these doctrines as the sources of hope and joy to the contrite sinner. But his religion was not confined to the recognition of right prin-

ciples. He was, perhaps, the only sovereign in the world who attended the public services of religion every day. No one who was ever permitted to become a spectator of these solemn approaches to the throne of grace, is likely to forget either his venerable image, or the apparent intenseness of his devotions, when after Providence had deprived him of his sight, he was led to his seat in the chapel of his palace by the hands of his royal daughters. But to those denied the privilege of witnessing this affecting scene, there remain many public and indisputable monuments of his personal piety.

It was, however, in his domestic character that his majesty shone pre-eminent. None, perhaps, but those who have moved in the high and noisy sphere of public life, or have lived upon the stimulants which it supplies, or have felt the influence of its great and commanding interests in lowering the importance of those of a simple and more private character, can estimate the difficulty of a dignified and happy retreat from the scenes of public life to the circle of a family. It is one of the mischievous consequences of publicity, that it ordinarily spoils men for retirement. Accordingly, scarcely any characters have been transmitted with more veneration to posterity than those who, uninjured by camps and senates, could, as it were, sheath their energies when the conflict was over, retire joyfully from the gaze of the world, and find both happiness and diffuse it in the family circle. To the small company of individuals distinguished by the possession of this double capacity for public and private life, our late revered monarch may, without hesitation, be added. He lived, as much as the lowest of his cottagers, for the benefit and comfort of the family with which Providence had surrounded him. He supplied no precedent for

vice in his own habits. He did not, like one of the Stuarts in our own country, or like some of the latter monarchs of France, poison the stream of public morals at its fountain-head, by presenting to the nation the example of a polluted court. He frowned the profligate out of the sphere in which he presided. He taught his people by his devotion to his family, that they might be sharers of that order of pleasures which their monarch valued the most. He supplied to the country an example calculated to extend and perpetuate amongst us that taste which has been supposed to distinguish us from some foreign nations, and which is one of the main pillars of our greatness and our welfare.

The personal decision and magnanimity of his majesty shone in a most conspicuous manner at various periods of his momentous life. It will never be forgotten by his country, with what calmness he encountered the fury of more than one poor insane creature who attempted to destroy him; how boldly he exposed himself to the violence of the mob in any moment of irritation; with what magnanimity at the period of the riots, he decided when his ministers faltered and hesitated to adopt the only measure which humanely speaking could have saved the metropolis or the country. Nor let this quality be undervalued. Valour in the moment of battle, when every passion is inflamed, when retreat or concealment is impossible, when the suggestions of cowardice are hushed in the din of arms, or shouts of victory; when sympathy fans the spark of doubtful valour, such courage is a common quality. But solitary courage,—courage without excitement, without passion, without tumult, without the stimulus of hatred or the hope of revenge, is the quality of no ordinary mind. It is the proper attribute of

kings, and we loved our king in part, because he eminently possessed it.

But in order to advance to the consideration of what may be more properly termed the moral qualities of his mind, it must be observed, that our late sovereign was characterized by a spirit of the deepest conscientiousness. He is well known in one instance to have declared, in regard to certain political concessions demanded of him, that he would rather lay his head on the block than concede that, which he conceived himself bound by his oath to his country to refuse. And, on the spirit of this splendid declaration, he appears habitually to have acted. Where is the solitary instance in which he sacrificed conscience to interest, to terror, or to persuasion? When did he trifle with his oath to God, or his pledges to his country? Politicians may differ as to the decisions to which his conscience conducted him, but none are rash or wicked enough to charge him with evasion, with a spirit of compromise, with a surrender of right to expedience, with giving his conscience into the keeping of his interest, with endeavouring to twist the straight letter of the word of God, or the stubborn maxims of common equity, into all the crooks and windings of state policy.

We have been led into this minute delineation of his majesty's character, in consequence of the many very gross aspersions which at this period of our history were cast upon him. Men, who had no opportunities of knowing the secret springs by which his actions were guided, stepped forward upon the arena of public abuse, and vilified a character, which, although it had its shades, was yet ornamented with those splendid hues, the brightness of which was too great for their jaundiced eyes to support. Amongst the many accusations against his majesty, one bore in the eyes of

particular persons a most alarming feature; this accusation was, that his majesty was fast verging to atheism—a charge as groundless and unsubstantial, and as black in its origin as the mind which could have conceived it, or the heart which could have engendered it. It arose, however, from a singular circumstance which took place at this time, namely, the grant of a pension 100*l. per annum* to the celebrated Rousseau. Hume the historian was the person who undertook to obtain this pension; and, on Hume's arrival in England from France, he stated the matter to his majesty's ministers, and particularly to general Conway, secretary of state, and general Græme, secretary to the queen. Application was accordingly made to their majesties, who readily assented, on condition that the transaction should not be made public. The reason of this stipulation was, that these great personages did not choose to appear publicly to countenance the author of obnoxious writings. Rousseau himself expressed himself highly pleased with the conditional article of secrecy. At the time, however, that Rousseau and Hume were at Paris, another star in the bright constellation of British genius was irradiating the gay circles of Paris, namely Horace Walpole, and his extreme turn for pleasantry led him to exercise it at the expense of poor Rousseau. He fabricated a letter to Rousseau as if written by the king of Prussia, offering him an asylum in his dominions. This celebrated letter found its way all over Europe, and it appeared at last in the *St. James's Chronicle* of April 7, 1766. The indignation of Rousseau was now at the highest pitch, and he considered Hume as an accessory to the writing of the letter. Hume denied the allegation, but still pressed Rousseau to accept the pension. Rousseau, however, refused so long as the stipulation remained that it was to continue a secret,

on which Hume undertook to get that stipulation rescinded; but in the mean time the correspondence of Rousseau and Hume was made public, and the circumstance of his majesty having offered a pension of 100*l.* to Rousseau became a subject of public notoriety. The clamour of party immediately burst forth against his majesty; his love of religion was stigmatized as hypocrisy, he was called the patron of atheism, the supporter of deism; the episcopacy of the country took the alarm—the cry of the church is in danger was raised—and, on the unoffending head of his majesty, was poured down the indignation of an infuriated people.

This unpopularity of the king was greatly increased by the state of the American politics, in which country a very violent prejudice was raised against the king, by the official language of the ministry, attributing to his majesty certain private feelings far beyond what his own sentiments justified. These official forms represented the king as being highly provoked with the early steps of the American independents; but from these ungracious charges he was vindicated by an able writer of the time, who observed that the king was in fact the father of his people—that he really viewed them, and their crimes with that compassion with which parents regard the misconduct of their children—that it was with reluctance he lifted his hand to punish—that it was not the being provoked, but the necessity of preventing greater evils—the spirit of justice, and his paternal care for his obedient and loyal subjects—which could ever draw from him any mark of

correction or chastisement. By this character he preserved the reverence of his people, and it was therefore most judiciously urged that to attribute to him those little passions which might perhaps at some times agitate the minds of his ministers, had a tendency to diminish his dignity, the confidence which his subjects placed in him, and the happiness of his people.

His majesty was expected to go down to parliament on the 14th of May, for the purpose of giving the royal assent to a bill prohibiting the importation of foreign wrought silks and velvets, and also to prevent unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the silk manufacture, several thousand weavers attended St. James's with banners flying, music playing, and drums beating, and accompanied the state procession to the house of peers, after which they attended his majesty back to the palace, with the loudest acclamations of joy. On their return to Spital-fields, the whole body halted before the Mansion-house, exhibited all their standards, from which flew streamers of all colours, composed of long slips of their own manufacture. After giving three loud cheers and playing "God save the king," the delighted artizans returned peaceably to their own humble habitations.

In July 1766, his majesty was again perplexed with a change of his ministers. The duke of Grafton succeeded lord Rockingham as first lord of the treasury. It has been stated that lord Bute at this time wholly abstained from political affairs, and that he interfered not with the formation of the new ministry. There is, however, a curious document on record* which

* *An Eighteen Days' faithful Journal, ending a few days previous to the Ministry's kissing hands in 1766.*

Tuesday, June 24, 1766.—From Audley-street, the favourite set out about one o'clock, in a post-coach and four, for lord Lichfield's at Hampton-court, and came home again at ten at night; went out directly after in a chair to Miss Vansittart's, maid of honour to the P. D. of W. in Sackville-street; staid there but a very little while, and then went to Carlton-house, and returned home about twelve o'clock.

Wednesday 25.—From Audley-street, the favourite set out in a chair, at half-past six in the evening, went into Sackville-street, as before, staid there till past ten, then went to Carlton-house, and returned home about twelve

shews that lord Bute, in his nocturnal visits to Carlton-palace, had some momentous business on his hands, and which the scandal of the day attributed to a different motive than that of the formation of a ministry.

It was on the 30th July 1766, that Mr. Pitt was raised to the peerage, on his making choice of the office of privy seal, from which time his declension in the popular opinion was too great ever to be recovered. His influence was now diminished amongst those with whom he acted, and some of whom had risen under his patronage. His superiority of mind, which had denied the usual habits of intercourse with the world, gave an air of austerity to his manners, and precluded the policy of a convenient condescension to the minutiae of politeness and fascinating powers of address.

One of the first acts of lord Chatham's administration, was the restoration of Mr. Stuart Mackenzie. He did this in the handsomest manner possible. When Mr. Mackenzie was first appointed to the sinecure of privy seal of Scotland, he was honoured with the royal assurance, that he should enjoy the place for life; but the duke of Bedford had obliged his majesty to break his promise, in order to convince the nation that he (the duke) was not under the influence of lord Bute. Lord Chatham thought this removal such a flagrant violation of the royal promise, that he made this reparation of the king's private honour one of the first acts of his ministry, without regarding the unpopularity of the measure. This circumstance proves that lord Chatham was not unfavourably disposed to the king's friendships, nor even to his partialities.

Thursday 26.—From ditto, the favourite set out at half-past six in the evening in a chair, went into Sackville-street as before, staid there till ten, then went to Carlton-house, and came home at twelve.

Friday 27.—At seven this morning, the favourite set out from Audley-street, for his seat in Bedfordshire.

Sunday 29.—The earl returned from Bedfordshire this day to dinner; set out as before at a quarter-past six for Sackville-street, staid there till about ten, then went to Carlton-house, and came home at twelve.

Monday 30.—From Audley-street, the favourite set out in a chair a quarter-past six, went into Sackville-street, staid there till about ten, then went to Carlton-house, and came home as usual at twelve.

Tuesday, July 1.—From ditto, at half-past six in a chair to Sackville-street, staid there till ten, then to Carlton-house, and thence home at twelve.

Wednesday 2.—From ditto, ditto, ditto, and ditto.

Thursday 3.—At six this morning the favourite set out from Audley-street for his seat in Bedfordshire.

Saturday 5.—The favourite returned to Audley-street from ditto this day to dinner; at half-past six went to Sackville-street, staid there as usual till about ten, then to Carlton-house, and afterwards came home about twelve.

Sunday 6.—At half-past six to Sackville-street as usual, about ten to Carlton-house, and home at twelve as before.

Monday 7.—At three-quarters past six to Sackville-street as usual, about ten to Carlton-house, and home at twelve.

Tuesday 8.—At half-past six to Sackville-street, about ten to Carlton-house, and home at twelve.

Wednesday 9.—At half-past six to Sackville-street, about ten to Carlton-house, and home at twelve.

Thursday 10.—This morning at seven the favourite and his lady set out from Audley-street for Bedfordshire.

Saturday 12.—Returned this day from Bedfordshire to dinner, and, being Lord Mount Stuart's birth-day, he went out at eight this evening to Sackville-street, staid there till past ten, then went to Carlton-house, and returned home about twelve.

Sunday 13.—At half-past six to Sackville-street, staid there till past ten, then to Carlton-house, and home at twelve.

Monday 14.—At half-past six to Sackville-street, staid there till ten, then to Carlton-house, staid there till past twelve, and then home.

N.B. The curtains of the chair, from Audley-street to Sackville-street, were constantly drawn, and the chair taken into the house.

There never was known in England so wet a summer as that of 1766. From the month of March to the month of August, there were not successively two fair days. This uncommon season injured the corn harvest prodigiously, and the most serious alarm pervaded the country. Under these circumstances his majesty, with a beneficent regard to the interests of his people, ordered his ministers to take the circumstance under their most immediate consideration. The ministers held several councils upon the subject, and at length a proclamation was issued commanding an embargo to be laid on the exportation of corn. This circumstance negatives the report, that his majesty never interfered with his ministers, but allowed them to pursue their own plans without molestation nor interruption. The fact is wholly contrary. His majesty was by no means deficient in a knowledge of the just principles of political economy, and although he might display an uncommon pertinacity, or even obstinacy in the prosecution of any plan which he had formed, yet it ought rather to be mentioned to his credit, than to his injury. A determined firmness of character is more to be prized and commended, though often stigmatized with the title of obstinacy, than that irresolute and vascillating conduct which is ever forming plans, but never executing them. His majesty possessed a particular aptitude in discovering the best means for the attainment of his objects, and having once determined on them, it was not easy to divert him from his choice, thus, by those who knew not how to appreciate his character, he was denominated selfwilled and obstinate, and to that particular shade in his character, they attributed many of the evils with which the nation was threatened.

The celebrated interview between our late gracious sovereign and the great moralist and

lexicographer, so highly creditable to the character for benignity and good sense of the former, and to the grateful enthusiasm of the latter, took place at this period, and is thus recorded by the accurate and diffuse biographer of the latter.

"In February 1767, there happened, one of the most remarkable incidents of Johnson's life, which gratified his monarchical enthusiasm, and which he loved to relate with all its circumstances, when requested by his friends. This was his being honoured by a private conversation with his majesty, in the library, at the queen's house. He had frequently visited those splendid rooms, and noble collection of books, which he used to say was more numerous and curious than he supposed any person could have made in the time which the king had employed. Mr. Barnard, the librarian, took care that he should have every accommodation that could contribute to his ease and convenience, while indulging his literary taste in that place, so that he had here a very agreeable resource at leisure hours.

"His majesty, having been informed of his occasional visits, was pleased to signify a desire that he should be told when Dr. Johnson came next to the library. Accordingly, the next time that Dr. Johnson did come, as soon as he was fairly engaged with a book, on which, while he sat by the fire, he seemed quite intent, Mr. Barnard stole round to the apartment where the king was, and, in obedience to his majesty's commands, mentioned that Dr. Johnson was then in the library. His majesty said he was at leisure, and would go to him; upon which Mr. Barnard took one of the candles that stood on the king's table, and lighted his majesty through a suite of rooms, till they came to a private door into the library, of which his majesty had the key. Being entered, Mr. Barnard stepped forward hastily to Dr. Johnson, who

was still in a profound study, and whispered to him, "Sir, sir, here is the king." Johnson started up, and stood still. His majesty approached him, and at once was cautiously easy.

"His majesty began by observing, that he understood he came sometimes to the library, and then mentioned his having heard that the doctor had been lately at Oxford, and asked him if he was not fond of going thither. To which Johnson answered, that he was indeed fond of going to Oxford sometimes, but he was likewise glad to come back again. The king then asked him what they were doing at Oxford? Johnson answered he could not much commend their diligence, but that in some respects they were mended, for they had put their press under better regulations, and were at that time printing *Polybius*. He was then asked, whether there were better libraries at Oxford or Cambridge. He answered, he believed the Bodleian was larger than any they had at Cambridge, at the same time adding, 'I hope, whether we have more books or not than they have at Cambridge, we shall make as good use of them as they do.' Being asked whether All Souls or Christ's Church library was the largest, he answered, 'All Souls library is the largest we have, except the Bodleian.' 'Aye,' said the king, 'that is the public library.'

"His majesty enquired if he was then writing any thing? he answered he was not, for he had pretty well told the world what he knew, and must read to acquire more knowledge. The king, as it should seem, with a view to urge him to rely on his own stores as an original writer, and to continue his labours, then said, 'I do not think you borrow much from any body.' Johnson said, he had already done his part as a writer.—'I should have thought so too (said the king) if you had not written so

well!' Johnson observed to me upon this, that 'no man could have paid a handsomer compliment, and it was fit for a king to pay—it was decisive!' When asked by another friend, at Sir Joshua Reynolds', whether he made any reply to this high compliment? he answered, 'No, Sir: when the king had said it, it was to be so. It was not for me to bandy civilities with my sovereign.' Perhaps no man who had spent his whole life in courts could have shewn a more nice and dignified sense of true politeness than Johnson did in this instance.

"His majesty having observed to him that he thought he must have read a great deal, Johnson answered, that he thought more than he read; that he had read a great deal in the early part of his life, but having fallen into ill health, he had not been able to read much compared with others; for instance, he had not read much compared with Dr. Warburton. Upon which the king said, that he heard Dr. Warburton was a man of such general knowledge, that you could scarcely talk with him on any subject on which he was not qualified to speak, and that his learning resembled Garrick's acting in its universality. His majesty then talked of the controversy between Warburton and Lowth, which he seemed to have read, and asked Johnson what he thought of it? Johnson answered: 'Warburton has the most general, most scholastic learning; Lowth is the more correct scholar. I do not know which of them calls names best.' The king was pleased to say he was of the same opinion: adding, 'You do not think, then, Dr. Johnson, that there was much argument in the case?' Johnson said he did not think there was. 'Why, truly,' said the king, 'when once it comes to call names, argument is pretty well at an end.'

"His majesty then asked him what he thought of lord Lyttleton's History, which was then

just published.. Johnson said, he thought his style pretty good, but that he had blamed Henry II. too much. 'Why,' said the king, 'they seldom do these things by halves.' 'No, Sir,' answered Johnson, 'not to kings.' But fearing to be misunderstood, he proceeded to explain himself, and immediately subjoined; 'That for those who spoke worse of kings than they deserved, he could find no excuse; but that he could more easily conceive how some might speak better of them than they deserved, without any ill intention; for as kings had much more in their power to give, those who were favoured by them would frequently from gratitude exaggerate their praises; and, as this proceeded from a good motive, it was certainly excusable, as far as error was excusable.'

"The king then asked him what he thought of Dr. Hill? Johnson answered, that he was an ingenious man, but had no veracity; and immediately mentioned, as an instance of it, an assertion of that writer, that he had seen objects magnified to a much greater degree by using three or four microscopes at a time than by using one. 'Now (said Johnson), every one acquainted with microscopes knows, that the more of them he looks through the less the objects will appear.' 'Why (replied the king), this is not only telling an untruth, but telling it clumsily; for, if that be the case, every one who can look through a microscope will be able to detect him.'

" 'I now (said Johnson to his friends, when relating what had passed), began to consider that I was depreciating this man in the estimation of his sovereign, and that it was time for me to say something that might be more favourable.' He added, therefore, that Doctor Hill was, notwithstanding, a very curious observer; and, if he would have been contented to tell the world no more than he knew, he

might have been a very considerable man, and needed not to have recourse to such mean expedients to raise his reputation.

"The king then talked of literary journals, mentioned particularly the *Journal des Savans*, and asked Johnson if it was well done. Johnson said, it was formerly well done, and gave some account of the persons who began it, and carried it on for some years, enlarging it at the same time on the nature and use of such works. The king asked him if it was well done now. Johnson answered, he had no reason to think that it was. The king then asked him if there were any other literary journals published in this kingdom except the Monthly and Critical Reviews; and on being answered there was no other, his majesty asked which of them was the best. Johnson answered, that the Monthly Review was done with most care, the Critical upon the best principles; adding that the authors of the Monthly Review were enemies to the church. This the king said he was sorry to hear.

"The conversation next turned on the Philosophical Transactions, when Johnson observed, that they had now a better method of arranging their materials than formerly. 'Aye,' said the king, 'they are obliged to Dr. Johnson for that;' for his majesty had heard, and remembered the circumstance, which Johnson himself had forgot.

"His majesty expressed a desire to have the literary biography of this country ably executed, and proposed to Dr. Johnson to undertake it. Johnson signified his readiness to comply with his majesty's wishes.

"During the whole of this interview, Johnson talked to his majesty with profound respect, but still in his firm, manly manner, with a sonorous voice, and never in that subdued tone which is commonly used at the levee and in

the drawing-room. After the king withdrew, Johnson showed himself pleased with his conversation and gracious behaviour. He said to Mr. Barnard—‘Sir: they may talk of the king as they will, but he is the finest gentleman I have ever seen.’ And he afterwards observed to Mr. Langton—‘Sir; his manners are those of as fine a gentleman as we may suppose Louis the Fourteenth, or Charles the Second.’ ”

Towards the close of the year, another change took place in the administration. On the 20th of November, lord Chatham sent a note to lord Edgumbe, acquainting him, that the king had determined upon making some alteration in his servants, and that he (the minister) would be glad to see lord Edgumbe upon the subject. Accordingly lord Edgumbe waited upon the minister, who began by highly commending his lordship’s abilities, his virtues and integrity. Then, after many pauses, he said, “He was sorry for it—was extremely concerned it should happen so—but—a—it was necessary—a—.” Here lord Edgumbe stopped him short, and bluntly demanded, if his post was destined for another. The minister acknowledged it was the king’s pleasure, but that however unwilling the king was to increase the number of his lords of the bedchamber, yet he would, nevertheless, venture to place his lordship upon that list. Lord Edgumbe took offence, and declared, that after this usage, he would not take any place, nor resign that which he held to any but the king himself.

Two days after, lord Edgumbe received a note signifying the king’s desire of his staff. He accordingly waited on the king, who said, “That he was very sorry to part with his lordship, of whose services he had a very high opinion, as well as of his lordship’s abilities and attachment to his person, and especially because his lordship had no mixture of factious princi-

ples in his dispositions.—But, the king added; my ministers tell me it must be so—at the same time acknowledging, that the idea of the bed-chamber originated entirely with himself. Lord Edgumbe returned his thanks to the king for the good opinion he was pleased to entertain of him, and expressed the great obligation he was under for it; his lordship delivered up his staff, and Mr. Shelly was appointed treasurer of the household.

Notwithstanding these political dissensions, his majesty enjoyed a high degree of domestic happiness, and it was his extraordinary moral rectitude, and unconquerable resolution and integrity that upheld and supported him through so many difficulties and troubles, with which he was beset during the greater part of his long and eventful reign. He never suffered himself to be misled by mean or narrow motives, so as to relinquish his plans, friends, or promises, in any circumstances, however arduous or unattainable. It was this nobleness, bravery, uprightness and justice of character that so greatly endeared him to the general esteem of the British people, and to the admiration of those of other countries; which, with the exemplary regularity and simplicity of his manners and mode of life, his moderate habits, his pleasant, cheerful, mild and unaffected deportment, his careful performance of all duties and engagements, his constant regard to the concerns of his family, his attentive, regular and diligent discharge of his duties and offices of sovereignty, his unostentatious and unaffected bounty to those in want, his great zeal for the interests of religion, and his devout piety towards that Being under whose governing care and direction every thing rests, have been long known and justly valued by those of almost all ranks in the state. The influence of his majesty’s example in these several respects, had

therefore, especially in the more early part of his reign, no small share in forming the conduct and manners of a large part of the inhabitants of this country, but which, from the agency of other causes, have considerably degenerated. It was his majesty's attention to minutiae, which obtained for him, amongst the unthinking and the inconsiderate, the appellation of a trifling character. The affairs of a nursery were considered beneath the notice of a monarch, and abstractedly considered, there may be truth in the remark—but although he was a monarch, he was a parent also, and he fulfilled that relation by the most rigid performance of its sacred duties. The king was early accustomed to place little or no reliance upon the conduct of servants, if not under the immediate eye of their master, and it was this well-grounded suspicion which induced him often to appear in those places where his presence was very little expected. He has been frequently known to appear between five and six o'clock in the morning in the nursery, in his morning gown, to the no small perplexity and annoyance of those who had the charge of his children. He thereby discovered many abuses which were carried on in the different departments, and such discovery could not be very pleasant to those whom he detected: his majesty was therefore honoured with the name of *Molly King*.

Another pleasant anecdote is related of this propensity of his majesty to come unawares upon his servants, and it contains a striking instance of the retentiveness of his memory:—It was his majesty's custom to pay an early visit to his mews, if not to mount, to look at and pat his favourite horses. One morning, on entering, the grooms were disputing one with the other very loudly, so that the king for a short time was unnoticed. 'I don't care what

you say, Robert,' said one, 'but every one else agrees, that the man at the Three Tuns makes the best purl in Windsor.' 'Purl! purl!' said the king, quickly; 'Robert, what's purl?' This was explained to be warm beer with a glass of gin, &c.; his majesty listened attentively, and then turning round said, loud enough to be heard by all, in the way of admonishing, 'I dare say very good drink, but, grooms, too strong for the morning; never drink in a morning.'

Eight or nine years after this, his majesty happened to enter the stables much earlier than usual, and found only a young lad, who had recently been engaged, and to whom the king was unknown. 'Boy, boy,' said he, 'where are the grooms, where are the grooms?' 'I don't know, Sir; but they will soon be back, because they expect the king.' 'Ah, ah,' said he, 'then run, boy, and say the king expects them; run, boy, to the Three Tuns; they are sure to be there, for the landlord makes the best purl in Windsor.'

In the letters of bishop Warburton, left for publication by his friend bishop Hurd, there is the following characteristic anecdote, in which the urbanity of the monarch stands well contrasted with the roughness of the controversialist: "I brought" says the bishop, (Feb. 20, 1767) "as usual, a bad cold with me to town, and this being the first day I ventured out of doors, it was employed, as in duty bound, at court, it being a levée day: a buffoon lord in waiting, (you may guess whom I mean,) was very busy in marshalling the circle; he said to me, 'Move forward, for you clog up the door.' I replied with as little civility, 'Did nobody clog up the king's doorstead more than I, there would be room for all honest men.' This brought the man to himself. When the king came up to me, he asked why I did not come

to levée before? I said, 'I understood there was no business going forward in the house in which I could be of service to his majesty.' He replied, 'he supposed the severe storm of snow would have brought me up.' I replied, 'I was under the cover of a very warm house.' You see by all this how unfit I am for courts."

The king when in conversation with Dr. Johnson observed, that Pope made Warburton a bishop. "True, Sir," said Johnson, "but Warburton did more for Pope—he made him a christian;" alluding no doubt to his ingenious comments on the Essay on Man.

It was at the close of the year 1766 that his majesty conferred or rather restored the first dukedom, that of the duke of Montague, being the second or last that he ever conferred or intended to grant, with the exception of his own sons and brothers, that being the highest title in his power to confer even upon a member of the royal family. It was not until 1784 that the king thought fit to create a marquess, the late marquess of Buckingham; the first earldom which he granted was in 1761, to the earl of Delawar. Viscount Wentworth, in 1762, was the first of that class of nobility in his reign; and the first baron was lord Grantham, but preceded by the barony of Mount Stuart, granted to the countess of Bute on the 3d of April, 1761.

A very strong proof of his majesty's attachment to and regard for the Protestant religion occurred at this period. The Polish Protestants having been for some time deprived of their former rights and privileges, and their liberty of worship being taken away at the instigation of the Romish clergy, his majesty being convinced that this was an unjust attack upon the Protestant religion, without any sufficient cause arising from temporal politics, took

up the subject personally, and on the 4th of November, a day celebrated in the Protestant cause, the British ambassador presented a memorial to the king of Poland on the subject, which restored the poor suffering people to full liberty of conscience, and a just toleration.

His majesty's great zeal for religion was indeed manifest on all occasions; and, at the time when the works of Hume and other sceptical writers occasioned more noise than they deserved, his majesty who was always very free in expressing himself concerning religion, said one day very happily, in alluding to the powerful genius of that great moralist, and the impertinence of the sceptical tribe, "I wish Johnson would mount his dray-horse, and ride over those fellows."

His late majesty possessed an understanding strong, acute, and sagacious from nature, and by the free and constant use of it in conversation with men of all minds and all habits, he acquired a very exact and extensive knowledge of all that is to be learned in the practice of life. In this respect his sphere was so large, and his curiosity and constant exercise so unwearied and unsatiated, that it is incredible almost what a mass of information he thus acquired. As books are the only written thoughts of men, and conversation their oral discourse, it is manifest that the subject matter of both is in *kind* the same; and, it is certainly not impossible to imagine such an opulence of conversation, and such a long and frequent converse with men, as may amount in a degree to the same kind of instruction, and to the same quantity of it, which might be acquired from books themselves. For example, we can easily imagine that a man of vast understanding and strong observation, might learn as much from the conversation of such men as Burke or Johnson as by their printed volumes, and pro-

bably might learn it to better purpose, as discourse is certainly better remembered than any reading. And this will account for the astonishing degree of information possessed by his late majesty, who, by means of his natural strength of observation and by his insatiable curiosity, added to his opportunities, was inferior to very few of any of the most learned men of his reign, in all that respects the knowledge and practice of life, of history, and of business. As respects history, he was acquainted as well as any one of his day, with the history of every kingdom in Europe, and had a more intimate acquaintance, because better opportunities presented themselves, with their interests and politics. By the same means, and the system of incessant questioning, he had attained a nearly equal knowledge of ancient as of modern history, and what is more surprising, had even mastered the difficulties of metaphysics and logic, by the united means of a little reading and much conversation. With these aids, the conversation of the king in his days of health and strength, was not merely intelligent, but acute and striking, and was in no degree inferior upon all general subjects, to that of those who believed themselves most profound upon such points.

The above was the character of the king's understanding, and its cause and origin. It appears almost to have been a felicity, rather than a merit, if such rare virtue in any case can be termed a gift of fortune, and might be more properly denominated the peculiar gift and grace of Heaven. In regard to the monarchs of the earth, they regulate their judgment of their comparative value, not by the representation of the satellites which form the dazzling splendour and magnificence of a court, nor by the flattery of those whom their bounty feeds, but by the lineaments which the sacred

writings have drawn of illustrious kings. From them they learn, that, not without a due attention to those political institutes which the depravity of mankind has rendered expedient, their most prominent features were a veneration of the Supreme Being, a reliance on his all-directing providence, a devotedness to his service, and the constant practice of his worship; which is, if possible, even more the duty of princes, than it is of their subjects.

How far the character of our late sovereign has been uniformly influenced by these pious and amiable maxims, we have an undoubted right to judge from facts, which all allow to be the most unerring criterion of goodness. Who is there amongst us that is not eager to celebrate his bright example, however backward we may be to tread in his steps? As we ought to love truth better than kings or patriots, it is no trifling pleasure to be able to indulge our eulogiums in this instance, and yet preserve her strictest claims, and in proportion to the extent of the difficulties which we have to surmount in maintaining an uncommon character of piety and morals, the more sublime and beautiful must that character eventually appear.

The year 1767 was remarkable for its various changes in the administration, and when lord North came into power, the singular phenomenon was exhibited in the political world of a high tory acting with a junto of zealous, though by no means consistent, whigs.

His majesty, in the month of September 1768, experienced a domestic affliction in the death of his brother the duke of York, who died in Italy of a fever, on his route to the different Italian courts. It may be confidently asserted, that there is not any family in which courage is more decidedly one of its characteristics, than in that of the royal family of England. The duke of York possessed this

quality in an eminent degree, and bishop Newton adds his personal testimony in confirmation of the popular opinion, and expresses his own opinion that had he outlived the years of dissipation, he would have proved an honour to his king and country. He accompanied the unfortunate expedition to Cherburg, and was always foremost when danger called. On one occasion, he advanced so near the town, as to expose his person to some shot from the enemy. A ball grazing *en ricochet* near the spot where he stood, a serjeant sprung before him to defend his royal highness with his body. The prince was so pleased with this uncommon mark of courage and attachment, that he rewarded him with a handsome gratuity.

The gallantries of his brother often gave great pain to his majesty, for although they were not distinguished by any particular feature of viciousness, yet they often exposed him to those mortifying situations which were derogatory to his character and his rank. His majesty often expostulated with his brother on his dissipated mode of life, and pictured to him the difference between the pleasures of a married life, and those of a single one. "My dear brother," said the duke of York, "I feel myself highly indebted to you for all the advice you give me, for I know it flows from a native goodness of heart, but you will allow me to say, that I am not wholly ignorant of the precepts of a book, which you are always extolling, and one of which I am determined to keep, which is, 'they who marry do well—but they who keep single, do better.'" The king a few days afterwards meeting with the archbishop of Canterbury, mentioned to him the above conversation with his brother, and desired him to expound the doctrine contained in the passage quoted by his brother. The archbishop on his return home, wrote a discourse upon the subject, which was sent

to his majesty for his approbation; after having perused it, his majesty said, "How difficult it is sometimes to convince a man that he can do better than well."

On the 2d of November the late lamented duke of Kent was born, and in a short time afterwards the court-mourning was ordered for his royal highness the duke of York.

It has been clearly ascertained, that a protracted duration of court-mourning is excessively injurious to the trading interests of the country. His majesty, however, took this circumstance under his immediate consideration, and in compassion to those manufacturers and people, who, by the usual length of court-mourning, would at a time of great scarcity and distress, be deprived of the means of getting their bread, he commanded that the period of all court-mourning should be shortened, and the lord chamberlain received his orders for that purpose.

On this patriotic act of his majesty being announced, the Spital-fields weavers went in grand procession to St. James's Palace, for the purpose of returning thanks to his majesty. This expression of public feeling and gratitude was most graciously received, and imparted an uncommon degree of satisfaction to the king.

The year 1768 is remarkable for some of the most violent political disturbances which ever agitated the country, and which placed his majesty in the highest state of embarrassment. A new parliament was called; and Mr. Wilkes returning from his outlawry, appeared again on the political canvass. He had previously solicited his pardon from the king, but no notice whatever was taken of the application. The impudence of this factious demagogue was boundless, and especially on those points which had a reference to the private feelings of the king. He sought for every opportunity by

which they could be outraged, and he was the fire-brand which set the public opinion in a flame, respecting the supposed familiar intercourse between lord Bute and the princess dowager of Wales. On his arrival in England, he had the insolence to address a letter to the king, which was sent by a common footman, and, although he stood at that time branded as an outlaw, he appeared at Guildhall and offered himself as a candidate for the city of London. It is not, however, the aim of this work to enter into any further exposition of political events than as they possess a particular relation to the private and public life of his majesty, and therefore carrying with them a positive influence on his character as a sovereign and a man. The affairs of Wilkes are known to every one in the slightest degree conversant with English history, and they deserve in this place no further mention, than as they tended to disturb the functions of his majesty's government, and to involve him in those unpleasant predicaments from which his firmness only emancipated him. Rage and violence agitated the metropolis; petitions were presented to the king from several counties, cities, and boroughs, some of them couched in the most unbecoming language, condemning the measures of his reign, and complaining of grievances that existed only in their own imaginations, while others more moderately contented themselves with praying for a dissolution of parliament. The ministry endeavoured to counteract the influence of these petitions, by addresses of loyalty and approbation, but these were few and inconsiderable; and, so infatuated was the populace, that when the merchants of London went up to court to present their address, they were most violently assaulted by the mob at the palace-gate, for which some of the ringleaders were apprehended and acquitted.

But in the midst of all this political rage, the attention of his majesty was not diverted from the encouragement of the fine arts in the country. "A nation" says an elegant anonymous writer, "may be considered great by its achievements in arms or in commerce, but never can be said to be truly polished, till it fosters the polite arts, the acquisition of which sinks every other pursuit into comparative insignificance. They open a sixth sense upon every one who successfully cultivates them. The savage eats his food and falls asleep; the man of mere wealth does little more, but in those who seek pleasure in cultivating a taste for the fine arts, the pleasures of sense hold but a subordinate place."

The reign of George III. presents no event perhaps more worthy the notice of the historian, than the remarkable progress which was made during it in the fine arts. Before his majesty's accession we had no native artists of celebrity, either in painting or sculpture, Hogarth alone excepted in the former; and some writers had advanced it gravely as a fact, that the English climate was incapable of fostering or maturing genius. The falsity of this hypothesis was, however, ably exposed by an eminent artist of the age, in an *Enquiry into the Causes of the Slow Progress of the Arts in England*; in which he has proved, that the cause of art has been impeded not by frigidity of climate or imagination, but by various political-religious causes commencing with the reformation, and much more effectually destructive to the growth of refinement and taste, and consequently to the progress of the fine arts, than any combination of frost, fog, wind, rain and sunshine, incidental to this or any other country, Nova Zembla and Siberia not excepted.

Many of the arts of life had advanced amongst us to a state of great perfection; our

literature had reached a height beyond which no age can pass, but painting, sculpture, and architecture, were suffered to be neglected. No sooner, however, did the august patronage of the sovereign manifest itself in behalf of those arts, than a general feeling for them ran through the kingdom; every order of the state was forward to encourage, and the impulse given to the arts, produced great artists in the manner as a revolution produces great statesmen and great generals.

The country, which before had given encouragement to the lifeless productions of Kneller, Hudson, and Jervis, in painting—to the deformities of Rysbrack and Scheemaker, in sculpture—and to the clumsy masses of Vanburgh, Gibbs, and Batty, in architecture—now saw, with the accession of a youthful sovereign, the beginning of an era that has matured to perfection a numerous band of artists. The deformities of Rysbrack gave way to the tasteful and classical productions of Bacon and Nollekins; while the architectural absurdities of the old, in time, were supplanted by the chaste productions of two eminent Scots, Adams and Stewart.

The genius thus kindled, gradually expanded, and perhaps no political vicissitude to which the nation may be subject, will ever be able to extinguish that spirit which characterizes the present race of Britons, in regard to the polite arts.

The grand lever by which this mighty change was effected, was the establishment in 1769 of the Royal Academy, of which his majesty always gloried in being the founder.

He was delighted with the magnificence of

the apartments at Somerset-house, with which he presented them, and did not envy their superior elegance to those of his own usual residences. He heard with great anxiety of any circumstances which disturbed the peace of the academy; particularly in the instance of that real genius, but eccentric man, Barry, (who painted the great room of the Adelphi Society), when he incurred the displeasure of the academicians by his free censure, in a lecture, of the main design of the buildings of Somerset-house. This affair vexed the king, who had expressed his approbation of the great merits of Barry, but he entertained a high opinion of Sir William Chambers, who was his first architect; yet, most critics who have considered the site of Somerset-place will incline towards Barry's ideas.

The king used to devote several hours to his annual view of the exhibition, and though he asked the opinions of the attendant artists, yet, in his accustomed rapid manner, was generally pretty free in his own remarks. He always manifested his patriotic feeling at the proofs of rising native talents, exclaiming, "Clever artist!" "Promising young man, this!" &c Sir Joshua Reynolds was an immense favourite with him, and in this he was succeeded by Mr. West, whom he employed oftener*. With this eminent artist, he allowed his kingly dignity to lose itself in long and familiar chit-chat; but, as in all such cases, he could resume it at once if occasion seemed to require it. He had a strong fancy for portraits. Though he bought a good many pictures, he was ever far enough from expending improvident sums for them. The celebrated Houghton collection, which

* In a debate in the house of commons, on Wednesday the 6th of July, 1820, on a motion of lord Castlereagh for pensions to the late king's servants, Mr. Huskisson stated, that his majesty, from an anxiety to promote the fine arts, granted Mr. West 1000*l.* a year from the privy-purse, and that on the whole the late president had not received less than 40,000*l.* from his majesty.

some expected would find its place in his palaces, was suffered to be shipped off to St. Petersburg, for the empress Catherine. He had some pictures by Northcote, Zoffani, Gainsborough, and Romney. There is a whole-length of the king in one of the state-rooms, habited in his parliament robes, which he thought a good likeness, and generally asked his visitors to look at. His majesty's taste forsook him at one time, when he removed the divine cartoons of Raphael from the long gallery, constructed for their reception, at Hampton-court, by king William, to Buckingham-house. There were no painted copies of them, but Sir J. Thornhill's, at Bedford-house, and which are now in the University Gallery, at Oxford. They travelled afterwards to Windsor, but the king at last restored them to their original places. In these removals they sustained no serious injury. Altogether there is a fine royal collection at Windsor, Buckingham-house, and Hampton-court; some good portraits at Kensington; but there are only the head of an old Venetian Doge, and some other trifles, in the Council-chamber at St. James's. The king patronized the valuable improvements of Jervis, &c., in the beautiful art of painting glass windows.

His majesty liked to look at monuments and read epitaphs, but his taste for sculpture did not appear very particular. Perhaps the king, to speak familiarly, was seldom more at home than in conversing on matters which mixed the mechanical with the scientific. Hence charts and maps, or the construction and goodness of a time-piece, a telescope, and other optical or mathematical instruments, or of pieces of clever machinery, down even to those of mere convenience, interested him greatly. He was occasionally philosophical. Inventions and discoveries were sure to attract his notice. In relieving his mind from matters of importance or

mere routine, by light mechanical occupations, he had the authority and recommendation of Locke. Old folks remember well what talk there was once about the king's having turned in a lathe a set of ivory buttons.

Another specimen of his majesty's extreme attention to the fine arts is recorded, when a transit of the planet Venus was expected, in which the Royal Society conceived the project of sending out some able astronomers to distant countries, to observe the phenomenon. Their funds being however unequal to the expense of such a mission, they made a representation of their inability to the king, who was pleased to ask for an estimate of the total sum required for the purpose; on seeing which, he immediately gave an order for the amount. Two astronomers, Messrs. Bayly and Wallis, were accordingly sent out to Hudson's Bay, where they remained nearly a whole year, and then returned to England, to report the result of their observations. The Royal Society communicated this report to his majesty, accompanied with a statement of the expenses incurred, which happening to be considerably less than the sum that had been granted, they begged to know the king's pleasure respecting the surplus. His majesty graciously replied, that it could not be in better hands than it was, and that the society might employ it in any other way they might think fit.

At this period of political animosity, when a bold spirit of mere party opposition assumed to itself the elevated name of liberty, and to cover its designs represented the constitution as endangered, numbers of pamphlets appeared, for no country equals England in this respect. The generality of these have sunk into oblivion, but the productions of one author have been perpetuated, and will possess celebrity as long as that species of writing shall continue. The

Letters of Junius attracted universal notice from the extraordinary excellence of their style, the force of their arguments, the severity of their invectives, and the freedom of their expressions. Mystery has enveloped the name of the real author of those famous epistles, and there remains little probability of the cloud ever being dispersed. Conjecture is staggered, and even the circumstances which at first seem to lead to a clear developement soon become confused and inapplicable to the object. This anonymous writer had proceeded to a considerable length in weakening the public reputation of several great men, without any legal inquiry; but on the publication of his spirited, not to say daring, letter to the king, in which he even proceeded from censure to threats, the attention of the government was naturally roused, and a bill was filed in the King's Bench against Woodfall the publisher.

This trial is memorable from the declaration of the lord chief justice Mansfield to the jury, that they were only to determine the fact of the publication without any regard to the question whether it was a libel or not. The jury, however, regardless of his lordship's direction, brought in a verdict of "Guilty of printing and publishing *only*," on which the defendant was discharged. This was a very important affair, as it in fact produced that great legislative decision which now subsists in the national code on the question of libel; that juries are competent to determine as well the *law* as the *fact*.

The month of May exhibited one of the shortest sessions of parliament ever known in this country; its meeting taking place on the 10th, and followed by a prorogation on the 21st of the same month.

His majesty about this time lost his second sister, the princess Louisa; and, as we have

already mentioned the cruel and unjustifiable treatment which his sister, as queen of Denmark, received, it will perhaps be considered as a bold-step on the part of the king of Denmark to have visited this country, during which he displayed every species of folly, and mingled in those scenes which were a disgrace to him. For his sister's sake, however, our amiable monarch treated him with the splendor of regal magnificence. His table alone was served at the rate of eighty-four pounds a-day, and the corporation of London, and other public bodies, gave him numerous fetes.

The king of Denmark's visit to England, indeed, placed his majesty, personally, in a very awkward situation, but in which he conducted himself with much good sense and delicacy. The unpleasant circumstances of his sister Caroline Matilda at the Danish court, from the machinations of an ambitious stepmother, and also of the king her husband's culpable neglect and forbearance, have been already related, and this, in fact, was the true and just motive of the cold reception which the Danish king met with at St. James's, and of his majesty's procrastination in receiving at his palace of Richmond the first visit of this royal guest. The late princess dowager of Wales was also equally well informed and displeased, on account of the illiberal and unmerited slights her daughter had so often met with from the queen dowager and her son prince Frederick, and she despised the king for his tame submission and pusillanimity. Notwithstanding all this, his majesty, willing to shew to royalty the exterior marks of distinction which sovereigns mutually expect from each other, intimated to the royal family, to his ministers, and the great officers of state, that he should consider as a respectful attention paid to himself, the emulation of the nobility in procuring the

king of Denmark whatever was conducive to his amusement and information in this kingdom. Indeed, that young monarch received the most distinguished honours from an hospitable and magnificent court, in a continued succession of the most brilliant feasts, and the most sumptuous entertainments. His majesty himself concluded all these festivities in a princely manner, by giving to the Danish monarch a grand ball and supper, at the queen's palace : but though the king, out of compliment to him, went to his superb masqued ball at the Opera-house, yet he did not mix in the motly throng, but merely sat for some time in a private and secluded box, where he could quietly view the folly and bustle of the scene.

In all this dignified reserve, his majesty was fully justified by the previous conduct of his brother-in-law ; and even more so by his behaviour at the British capital, which can best be described in a letter from the Danish queen to one of her sisters,—“ I wish the king's travels had the same laudable objects as those of Cyrus ; but I find that the chief visitors of his majesty are musicians, fiddlers, and other persons designed for employments still more inglorious ! ”

The princess Augusta's birth, on the 8th of November, gave the corporation of London another opportunity of approaching his majesty, which they did with a better grace than on some preceding occasions, steering clear of political animadversion, and confining themselves to the gratulations on the happy event, mingled with becoming loyalty ; a circumstance which afforded the king great satisfaction, as was evidently marked by the manner in which he received and answered their address at the levee.

A curious circumstance occurred at the palace on this occasion. At a royal birth it was formerly customary for the public to be

regaled with cake and caudle. It appears, however, that two young ladies were not only highly pleased with the beverage, but they took a fancy also to the cups from which they drank it, and not only to their own cups but also to some from which others partook of it. Accordingly they took the necessary measures for subtracting from the number of cups, by carrying off those which most delighted their fancy. They were, however, detected in their attempt, but were allowed to escape with a severe reprimand, after begging pardon on their knees for such a gross violation of honour and good manners.

During the violence of the party spirit which distinguished this period of our history, his majesty gave many striking proofs of that decision and firmness of character for which he was so remarkable in many subsequent events of his life, and to which may be attributed, in a great degree, the very safety and stability of his throne. One instance in particular is deserving of being recorded. During the Brentford election, which was the cause of the most outrageous riots, and of serious alarm to the loyal and well-disposed part of the community, his majesty being one day at James's, a furious mob rushed into the court-yard of the palace, following a hearse decorated with insignia of the most shameful description, with a person seated on it in the habit of an executioner, holding an axe in his hand, and his face covered with crape. This person was said to be an Irish viscount, then indeed a very young man, descended from one of the oldest families in that kingdom, and who had succeeded to his title about three years previously. In these trying moments, the king's firmness and presence of mind never deserted him ; he remained in the drawing-room displaying the utmost coolness, whilst the palace and the surrounding

streets resounded with the clamour of an infuriated mob, and issuing the necessary orders, which his ministers appeared incapable of giving. When his majesty was asked whether some vigorous measures should not be adopted to restrain the audacity of the mob, he coolly and philosophically answered, "Let them pass on—the storm that blows the hardest is the soonest over." His majesty, however, could not wholly restrain his indignation, when he beheld the shameful allusions which were made respecting his mother and lord Bute. A red petticoat, alluding to one which was reported to have been found under very suspicious circumstances, was hoisted on a staff before the window of the palace; and, on another was hoisted a large boot, the emblem at that day of the royal favourite, as lord Bute was universally styled. His majesty, who had shewn himself in the most undaunted manner at the window, withdrew from it, saying, "An English mob is like a river which has burst its bounds—its ravages are indiscriminate, for it spares neither the useful, nor the useless—neither the mighty, nor the weak."

So great indeed were the licentiousness and the laxity of morals that prevailed at this time, that the archbishop, bishops, and clergy of the province of Canterbury, took the opportunity of the birth of the princess Sophia, to address his majesty upon the subject. The following is the address, with his majesty's answer:

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the archbishop, bishops, and clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, beg leave to present our most humble and sincere congratulations to your majesty upon the increase of your royal and illustrious family; every addition to which, we, with the rest of your majesty's faithful subjects, consider as a farther security of those invaluable blessings which this nation has

enjoyed under the house of Brunswick, and as a pledge of its future happiness.

It is with the greatest satisfaction, as well as the deepest sense of gratitude, that your faithful clergy take this opportunity of their being convened, to repeat their thankfulness to your majesty for the frequent assurances which you have given them of your firm resolution to maintain them in the full enjoyment of their civil and religious rights, and to make their public acknowledgment of the experience they have had of your strict adherence to those gracious declarations.

Happy, Sir, would it be for this nation, if your royal authority, if your illustrious example, if the influence of your private and public virtues, had a more powerful effect upon the minds and morals of your people. But we are obliged to confess what we with sorrow observe, that a disregard to the sacred precepts of Christianity, and a neglect of its most essential duties, become every day more general through all ranks of men; and that a spirit of licentiousness prevails both in the writings and practice of the times, equally dangerous to the best constituted civil government, and to the purest mode of religious worship.

Under these circumstances we, who are most immediately engaged in the service of religion, feel ourselves in a more peculiar manner called upon to check, as far as we are able, the growing evils we lament; to impress, in the strongest manner, upon the minds of the people, fidelity to, and zeal for, the established religion of our country, with moderation and Christian charity towards those who have the misfortune to differ from us: to admonish them to be attentive to the sacred principles of religion, and to use their utmost endeavours to make their lives conformable to its holy doctrines.

Thus alone can we acquit ourselves of our duty towards God, and contribute to the present welfare and future happiness of our fellow-creatures.

In these our pious endeavours, we know we can depend upon the countenance and protection of your majesty: may you, Sir, with the assistance of the Almighty, long continue the firm support of the Protestant faith: may the same Providence, under whose divine protection you carried on and concluded the most successful war that is recorded in the annals of our history, enable you to preserve to your people, for a course of many years, the blessings of peace: and may you continue to derive con-

stant satisfaction to yourself, from a sense of that happiness which your subjects receive from the wisdom and mildness of your government.

They were received very graciously, and all had the honour to kiss his majesty's hand.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer :

I return you my thanks for this very dutiful and loyal address, and for the share you take in my domestic happiness, so warmly expressed in your affectionate congratulations on the increase of my family. It is with the greatest pleasure I observe your reliance on my invariable resolution to preserve and maintain the civil and religious rights of the church of England as by law established. You may depend upon my constant approbation and strongest support of your endeavours to suppress that spirit of licentiousness and immorality, which unfortunately prevails so much at this time. The very laudable zeal with which you exert yourselves in impressing upon the minds of the people a proper sense of our holy religion, and just observance of the laws of this happy constitution, will ever meet with my countenance and protection.

The parliamentary session of 1769 was opened by a royal speech, which dwelt principally upon the rebellious principles and practices of the North American colonies; which were most probably the cause of that deficiency on the civil list which obliged his majesty in February to inform the two houses that he had been forced to incur a debt of half a million, and that he rested on their zeal and affection to enable him to discharge it. It is impossible to advert to this period of his majesty's life, without attaching some blame as to the cause of this deficiency in the civil list. It was said that ministers had applied the money to purposes connected with the intestine and colonial commotions of the times; but under the shade of impartiality, it must be stated, that it was applied to wholly different purposes. The

most improvident grants were made to particular individuals to support the ministry ; and, although his majesty insisted upon the most strict economy being observed in every department of his household, yet it was well known that profusion and extravagance were carried on to an extent unparalleled in the history of the British court. It must not also be concealed, that the dowager princess of Wales interfered at this time in the political state of the kingdom, in a manner by no means compatible with her dignity ; and that she had access to money, which could not have been obtained but through the medium of the ministry, and which was most lavishly expended on their supporters. This, however, was all done under the cloak of secrecy, and the ministers in order to exculpate themselves from this gross dereliction of their duty, attributed the deficiency to those causes, which, though they might have a remote, yet they had no proximate bearing upon the defalcation to which his majesty so particularly alluded in his speech.

We have already briefly hinted at the notorious disposition which the populace testified at this time, and to which they were goaded by several acts of government, and the prospect of an American war. Nothing, however, could exceed the violence and outrage which were committed when the merchants and traders of the city of London went to St. James's to deliver an address to his majesty on the dangerous aspect of the times. Wednesday, the 22d of March, was the day appointed to present the address to his majesty, and the merchants set out in their carriages from the Royal Exchange, attended by the city marshal ; but so great was the indignation of the people, that they shut the gates of Temple Bar against the deputation, and the carriages were literally dispersed, some going up Fetter-lane, and some up Shoe-lane.

Mr. Boehm, who was to present the address, was obliged to leave his carriage, and take refuge in Nando's coffee-house. Here a curious circumstance occurred. Boehm left the address in his carriage, and when he arrived at St. James's, he had no address to present. In this predicament, the gentlemen who had arrived at St. James's began to propose a new address, and six names had been affixed to it, when the original address arrived, having escaped the vigilance of the mob, who had searched every part of Mr. Boehm's carriage in order to destroy it.

The riot act was read at St. James's, and his majesty issued immediately a proclamation for the suppression of riots and unlawful assemblies. In his majesty's answer to the address, he says :

The just sense you entertain of my desire to secure to my people the full enjoyment of their religion, laws, and liberties ; and the strong assurances you give me of your resolution to support the dignity of my crown, to preserve peace among my subjects, to maintain public credit, and to promote commerce, afford me the greatest satisfaction ; as well as your abhorrence of that inflammatory spirit of sedition, which it has been the business of artful and specious misrepresentations to propagate.

The warm wishes you express for the stability and permanence of this happy constitution, and the interest you take in my prosperity, will always deserve my favour and protection.

Excessive taxation* may be adduced as one cause of the violence on the part of the people ; they had other grievances to complain of, and they remonstrated accordingly, but a deaf ear was turned to their remonstrance and violence and riot were the consequence.

The birth-day of 1769 was by no means a

brilliant one. A gloom appeared to hang over the country, and the thoughts of all ranks of people were directed more to the portentous aspect of the times than to the pageantry or magnificence of the court. Party also had a great share in detracting from the usual splendour of the monarch's birth-day, for the leading politicians of the day appeared to be impressed, not so much with a zeal for their country's welfare, as with a personal rancour and hatred of each other ; it must, however, be admitted, that some applause is due to his majesty for the inflexible manner in which he supported his ministers on all occasions, and even during the extreme unpopularity of the duke of Grafton, his majesty never deserted him : the country was also much indebted to him, when his ministers were almost afraid to put the laws in force, and it was to him personally that the civil power was obliged to look for authority at the execution of the Spitalfields' rioters at Bethnal-green, on which occasion, the place of execution being changed, the legality of it was referred to the decision of the twelve judges.

It is recorded as a fact, that his majesty was so careful, on even the most minute occasion, not to increase the popular ferment ; that he issued his orders, that in the birth-day ode which was to be performed before him, all allusion to politics or government should be avoided, and at the same time, he hinted that it was very unpleasant to him to be obliged to sit and hear his own praises. The poet laureat had, therefore, rather a difficult task to execute, but he produced the following ode, which was performed before their majesties :

* A foreigner, in a humorous manner, gives the following whimsical statement of English taxation :—" In England the people are taxed in the morning for the soap that washes their hands ; at nine, for the coffee, the tea, and the sugar, they use for breakfast ; at noon, for starch to powder their hair ; at dinner, for the salt to savour their meat, and for the beer they drink ; after dinner, for the wine they drink ; in the evening, for the spirits to exhilarate ; all day long, for the light that enters their windows ; and at night, for the candles to light them to bed."

Patron of arts ! at length by thee
 Their home is fix'd : thy kind decree
 Has plac'd their empire here.
 No more, unheeded, shall they waste
 Their treasures on the fickle taste,
 Of each fantastic year.
 Judgment shall frame each chaste design,
 Nor e'er from truth's unerring line,
 The sportive artist roam :
 Whether the breathing bust he forms,
 With nature's tints the canvass warms,
 Or swells, like heav'n's high arch, th' imperial dome.
 Fancy, the wanderer, shall be taught
 To own severer laws :
 Spite of her wily wanton play,
 Spite of those lovely errors which betray
 Th' enchanted soul to fond applause,
 E'en she, the wanderer, shall be taught,
 That nothing truly great was ever wrought
 Where judgment was away.

Through osier twigs the Acanthus rose :
 Th' idea charms ! the artist glows !
 But 'twas his skill to please,
 Which bade the graceful foilage spread,
 To crown the stately column'd head
 ' With dignity and ease.
 When great Apelles, pride of Greece,
 Frown'd on the almost finish'd piece,
 Despairing to succeed,
 What tho' the missile vengeance pass'd
 From his rash hand, the random cast
 Might dash the foam, but skill had form'd the steed.
 Nor less the Phidian arts approve
 Labour, and patient care,
 Whate'er the skilful artists trace,
 Laocoon's pangs, or soft Antinous' face,
 By skill, with that diviner air,
 The Delian God does all but move ;
 'Twas skill gave terrors to the front of Jove,
 To Venus every grace.

—And shall each sacred seat,
 The yales of Arno, and the Tuscan stream,
 No more be visited with pilgrim feet ?
 No more on sweet Hymethus' summits dream,
 The sons of Albion ? or below,
 Where Ilyssus' waters flow ;

Trace with awe the dear remains
 Of mould'ring urns, and mutilated fanes ?
 —Far be the thought. Each sacred seat
 Each monument of ancient fame,
 Shall still be visited with pilgrim feet,
 And Albion gladly own from whence she caught the flame.
 Still shall her studious youth repair,
 Beneath their king's protecting care,
 To every clime which art has known ;
 And rich with spoils from every coast
 Return, till Albion learn to boast
 An Athens of her own.

On the day subsequent to this ode being performed, his majesty happened to meet the poet laureat, when he jocosely said to him, " You did right, very right, Mr. Poet—you reminded me of my favourite play, ' Much ado about nothing.' "

It was in the summer of this year that the celebrated address of grievances was presented by the city ; and it may be positively affirmed, that in the whole catalogue of addresses which were ever laid at the foot of the throne, not one can be compared to it, for the boldness of the spirit which characterizes it, and for the effect which it had upon his majesty. On the 5th of July the lord mayor, attended by the usual city officers went to St. James's, to present the petition, and a curious specimen of court intrigue was exhibited on the occasion ; in fact, every thing was done to prevent the address from being presented. The lord mayor was suffered to wait in the antichamber, as if he had no business whatever to transact, but being weary at last, he sent in a message by the remembrancer to the lord of the bed-chamber. Mr. Pitt, the groom of the bed-chamber, desired the remembrancer to deliver his message ; the remembrancer answered, his business could only be delivered to the lord of the bed-chamber, and that his orders were to communicate it to no one but his lordship. Soon after lord Hun-

tington came out, and acquainted the lord mayor, that lord Oxford was in waiting, and that the levee was begun, therefore he could not leave the king, but if they had any thing to present they might walk in to the levee. Alderman Beckford answered, they were there ready to obey the king's commands, and lord Huntington returned. After some time lord Oxford, the said lord in waiting, came out and told them, if they had any thing to deliver, they might walk in to the levee, which they did, and the king being near the door, the lord mayor delivered the petition into his majesty's hand, addressing him as follows :

Most gracious sovereign,

We, the lord mayor, the representatives in parliament, together with the sheriffs of your majesty's ancient and loyal city of London, presume to approach your royal person, and beg leave to present with all humility to your majesty, the dutiful and most humble petition of your majesty's faithful and loyal subjects the livery of London, in common-hall assembled, complaining of grievances, and from your majesty's unbounded goodness and paternal regard and affection for all your subjects, they humbly presume to hope that your majesty will graciously condescend to listen to their just complaints, and to grant them such relief as in your majesty's honour, wisdom, and justice shall seem meet.

The following was the petition :

Most gracious sovereign,

We your majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the livery of the city of London, with all the humility which is due from free subjects to their lawful sovereign, but with all the anxiety which the sense of the present oppressions, and the just dread of future mischiefs produce in our minds, beg leave to lay before your majesty some of those intolerable grievances which your people have suffered from the evil conduct of those who have been intrusted with the administration of your majesty's government ; and from the secret unremitting influence of the worst of counsellors.

We should be wanting in our duty to your majesty, as well to ourselves and our posterity, should we forbear to

represent to the throne the desperate attempts which have been, and are too successfully, made, to destroy that constitution, to the spirit of which we owe the relation which subsists between your majesty and the subjects of these realms, and to subvert those sacred laws which our ancestors have sealed with their blood.

Your ministers, from corrupt principles, and in violation of every duty, have, by various enumerated means, invaded our invaluable and unalienable rights of trial by jury.

They have, with impunity, issued general warrants, and violently seized persons and private papers.

They have rendered the laws non-effective to our security, by evading the Habeas Corpus.

They have caused punishments, and even perpetual imprisonment, to be inflicted, without trial, conviction, or sentence.

They have brought into disrepute, the civil magistracy, by the appointment of persons who are, in many respects, unqualified for that important trust, and have thereby purposely furnished a pretence for calling in the aid of a military power.

They avow, and endeavour to establish, a maxim, absolutely inconsistent with our constitution ;—that “ an occasion for effectually employing a military force, always presents itself, when the civil power is trifled with or insulted ;” and, by a fatal and false application of this maxim, they have wantonly and wickedly sacrificed the lives of many of your majesty's innocent subjects, and have prostituted your majesty's sacred name and authority, to justify, applaud, and recommend their own illegal and bloody actions.

They have screened more than one murderer from punishment, and in its place have unnaturally substituted reward.

They have established numberless unconstitutional regulations and taxations in our colonies. They have caused a revenue to be raised in some of them by prerogative. They have appointed civil law judges to try revenue causes, and to be paid from out of the condemnation-money.

After having insulted and defeated the law on different occasions, and by different contrivances, both at home and abroad, they have at length completed their design, by violently wresting from the people the last sacred right we had left, the right of election, by the unprecedented

scating of a candidate notoriously set up and chosen only by themselves. They have thereby taken from your subjects all hopes of parliamentary redress, and have left us no resource, under God, but in your majesty.

All this they have been able to effect by corruption. By a scandalous misapplication and embezzlement of the public treasure, and a shameful prostitution of public honours and employments; procuring deficiencies of the civil list to be made good without examination; and, instead of punishing, conferring honours on a paymaster, the public defaulter of unaccounted millions.

From an unfeigned sense of the duty we owe to your majesty, and to our country, we have ventured thus humbly to lay before the throne these great and important truths, which it has been the business of your ministers to conceal. We most earnestly beseech your majesty to grant us redress. It is for the purpose of redress alone, and for such occasions as the present, that those great and extensive powers are intrusted to the crown by the wisdom of that constitution which your majesty's illustrious family was chosen to defend, and which we trust in God it will for ever continue to support.

It is customary in all addresses for the king to return an answer, but in this instance no answer whatever was returned. The king turned about to baron Dieden, the Danish minister, and delivered the petition to the lord in waiting.

This conduct of his majesty naturally incensed the citizens, and rendered him still more unpopular. Another circumstance also occurred at this time, which tended not a little to exasperate the people. Wilkes had brought an action against lord Halifax for having unlawfully seized his papers, and a verdict of damages of 4000*l.* was obtained against his lordship. It was however generally understood before the trial came on, that the king had declared he would cover all the expenses of his servants in this affair, and the report gaining credit, the jury, it was said, were induced not to grant larger damages. This interference on the part of his majesty was deemed highly unconstitu-

tional, and he was assailed with the utmost virulence whenever he presented himself abroad. One day, his carriage was surrounded by a mob, and the following placard was thrown into one of the windows. "If you do not keep the laws—the laws will not keep you.—Kings have lost their heads for their disobedience to the laws!"

His majesty, however, bore all these attacks with the greatest firmness, and he was frequently heard to exclaim, "That he loved his people as his children, and therefore deplored their errors."

Yet in the midst of this anarchy and confusion, his mind was continually turned to the commission of acts of private good. He incorporated the Magdalen Hospital, of which the queen was patroness, and an act of parliament having passed for the paving and lighting of Windsor, his majesty generously bestowed 1000*l.* for those purposes.

In his general attention to the literature of the country, his majesty particularly directed his attention to the Universities. The professorship of history at Oxford had hitherto been a sinecure, but it was his majesty's determination that it should remain under that stigma no longer. His majesty was also aware, that in the various departments of literature, history was at this time the least studied. The taste of the age, as far as books were concerned, was frivolous in the extreme; and, although there were some stars of the first magnitude shining in the hemisphere of literature, yet their splendour could not penetrate the gloom which hung over the nation, the genius of which appeared to be diverted into a track by no means natural to it. His majesty was himself partial to the study of history; although he was no great reader, yet he was conscious that without a correct knowledge of that

science, the character of neither the statesman nor the politician can be considered as perfect. He, therefore, ordered that a course of lectures should be regularly delivered by the professor of history, and they were regularly transmitted to his majesty for his perusal and approbation. His majesty was not ignorant that a prince is born to encourage learning of every kind, but it is not required of him that he should be critically profound in any particular branch. For this reason, a man who has seen and experienced much, and is extensively conversant with that species of knowledge with which a prince ought to be thoroughly acquainted, such as his history, politics and polite literature, is a far more valuable acquisition to him, than one who may be completely versed in the languages and sciences of universities only. His majesty's method of acquiring knowledge was unique; it consisted of a system to which he inflexibly adhered of asking questions, and he would often ask three or four together, without waiting for an answer to either of them. This peculiarity of his majesty is alluded to in a humorous manner by Peter Pindar, when the king visited Mr. Whitbread's brewery, on which occasion he is represented as putting a whole string of questions to the "Wondering Brewer," who is made to say,

Now said the brewer, may I be curs'd
If I know which to answer first.

His majesty, however, generally returned to the first question, which being answered, he had a quick method of turning suddenly round, exclaiming, "Aye—aye—I thought so—I thought so." The mind of his majesty was in many respects cast in a very peculiar mould; it could embrace objects of the most abstract nature, and it could descend to trifles of the most direct insignificance. It was this latter

peculiarity in the character of his majesty, which the before-mentioned arch satirist attempted to ridicule in the tale of the Apple-dumpling, in which his majesty is represented as examining with great philosophical nicety, in what manner the apple could possibly get into the dumpling; and also, in another tale of the Mouse-trap, in which his majesty is utterly at a loss to conceive in what manner the mouse is caught, until he makes the experiment with his finger. These are, however, but mere shades in a beautiful picture, and they tend rather to heighten the general effect, than to injure it. His majesty may be justly said to have been obliged to break through long-rooted prepossessions and powerful impediments, in order to arrive at due information and cognizance of things, before he was able to act in such a manner as to display his real character; and, if he had not been of a curious and inquisitive disposition, he would probably have remained in a state of ignorance of those things which it was essential for him to know. Impelled by an invincible desire of coming at the real truth, he appears to have sought after the true knowledge of men and manners by mixing largely in the world, as the only effectual means of shaking off the prejudices contracted by a confined education, and of learning what would be otherwise carefully concealed from him by the circles that officially, and no less officiously, surrounded him.

The year 1770 opened under the most gloomy aspect; the address of the city of London threw the whole cabinet into a panic, nor did they know how to extricate their monarch or themselves from the predicament in which they were plunged. A particular difficulty presented itself in the framing of his majesty's speech which he was to deliver on the assembling of parliament; and certainly no

ministers ever made their master deliver such a speech as that which was heard from his majesty on this occasion. Intestine broils raged within the country, and without, it was threatened with war. The flag of rebellion was ready to be unfurled, and the very safety of the throne was in danger; yet in the midst of all these perils which environed the nation, his majesty is made to deplore a distemper which at that time raged amongst the horned-cattle. Some persons pretending to a greater portion of penetration than their neighbours, saw in this distemper of the horned-cattle a deep allegory, and that it alluded to the part which the citizens had taken in the general discontents. The citizens declared, however, that the cap did not fit, for that there were more horned-cattle to be found in the vicinity of the court, than in the city. It was, however, to say the least of it, a most ill-advised measure, and it only tended to increase the tide of unpopularity which set in so strongly against his majesty. A customary address was, however, voted to his majesty, and in his opposition to it, lord Chatham represented the Americans as an oppressed people, and, at the same time he complained of the expulsion of Mr. Wilkes. He was supported by the lord chancellor Camden, and opposed by lord Mansfield; the consequence of which was, that the great seal was taken from lord Camden, and offered with a peerage to the attorney-general Mr. Yorke, who accepted the gift, but thereby incurring the displeasure of his brother lord Hardwicke, in a sudden fit of despondency, committed the dreadful act of suicide. On this, the great seal was put in commission, and continued in that state for nearly a twelvemonth, when it was committed to Mr. Justice Bathurst.

This alteration in the ministry produced others, but the most important was the resig-

nation of the duke of Grafton, and the appointment of lord North as his successor.

Lord North's first introduction into office has been said to be the result of back stairs influence, but most probably it rather proceeded from early friendship.

It is, however, stated in an account deserving of credit, that on the occasion of these political changes, a conference of one of the political parties took place at the marquis of Rockingham's in Grosvenor-square, at which it was arranged, that should the then Opposition succeed, lord Chatham, lord Temple, and the marquis should be created dukes, and hold each a cabinet office; that Mr. George Grenville, under the controul of the three new dukes, should appear as the ostensible minister at the head of the treasury; and, to render such administration permanent, that all those who called themselves the king's friends in both houses should be turned out, and for ever kept out of office.

These political worthies were, however, reckoning without their host, for the result of this procedure was soon made known to the king, who declared with a dignified resentment, that as he was not consulted in the arrangement, he was determined that it should not take place, and that the insolence of their deliberations in private had fixed him in his resolution of never employing them in the councils of the nation. In manifesting his indignation, the king's express words were, "Have they then resolved to invade my rights, and to abuse those of my people, I am unhappy at their folly—it has for ever excluded them from my favour, as it shall from the service of a country which they would sacrifice to their ambition. *While I will have my people free, I will be free myself.*"

Upon this change in the administration, the

most eager but unsuccessful attempts were made in both houses to annul the judgment of the commons, in the case of the famous Middlesex election. Lord Chatham exerted himself most strenuously, in endeavouring to procure a reversal of the expulsion of Mr. Wilkes; and, it was with great justice urged against him, that such motions in the house of lords infringed on the rights of the lower house. But that great man was carried away with a strong spirit of resentment, and the affected alarms which he dwelt upon with so much vehemence upon the encroachment on liberty at home, and on the rights of our colonies abroad, had an evil influence upon the minds of the people in both parts of the empire.

There appeared indeed at this time as if some meteor of a malign influence were operating upon the nation. The unpopularity of the king was, in a certain degree, to be ascribed to the secret part which his illustrious mother was supposed to take in the politics of the country, though at the same time it must be admitted, that she often incurred the popular indignation, when she by no means merited it. The cause of her journey to Germany, which she took in 1770, was never properly explained, and as she left this country in June and returned in October, calumny assigned a reason for it, from which her age ought to have protected her, and for which not the slightest suspicion could be entertained. At every place, however, at which she stopped, she experienced the indignation of the people; at Canterbury, in particular, she was literally hooted out of the town—a black-guard went before her carriage with a long pole, to which was suspended a large jack-boot, and she was obliged to hear the most scandalous epithets vociferated against her. An idea was generally entertained by the people that the riches which she had amassed were enor-

mous, and by many it was supposed that her journey to Germany had some reference to the disposal of her property amongst her German relations; this tended to increase the prejudice against her, all her good deeds were forgotten, and obloquy and abuse became her portion.

That this treatment of his mother could not but affect the king excessively, cannot for a moment be doubted. To his credit as a son be it recorded, that at the very height of her unpopularity, when the most insidious attempts were made to convince him of the departure of his mother from the paths of virtue, he nobly withstood them all. He expelled the calumniator from his presence; and rather shared the odium which was attached to her, than lend a willing ear to the fabricated stories of her enemies.

In addition to the domestic broils which agitated the country, it was now threatened with a war with Spain, an event, however, which instead of being deprecated, excited a general eagerness of expectation. Most of our contentions with that country have resulted from frivolous pretensions, and the present was as trivial a circumstance as could be well imagined; indeed the ministers appeared to be in want of something to withdraw the attention of the people from their domestic grievances.

Lord Anson, when at the head of the Admiralty, put into execution a favourite idea which his own experience had convinced him was a necessary object, and that was to obtain the possession of some harbour south of the Brazils, for the accommodation of our shipping bound to the South-seas, and on examination finding none so suitable as the Falkland Islands, it was determined to form a settlement there. The court of Madrid, however, naturally jealous of so powerful and dangerous a neighbour on her valuable coast, remonstrated so strongly

against the design that it was given up. But when lord Grenville came to preside over the Board of Admiralty, in the Grenville administration, the project was revived, and commodore Byron was sent out to make a settlement there, to which was given the name of Port Egmont. At the same time the French made also a settlement on one of those islands which they called St. Louis, but on the complaint of the court of Madrid, this was yielded up to the Spaniards, who gave it the name of Port Solidad. The English retained their settlement, and kept a small naval force there to protect it.

Early in the year 1770, some disputes having

already happened between the British commander, and the Spanish governor of Buenos Ayres, respecting the right of our crown to those islands; an armed fleet was sent against the new settlement, which surrendered by capitulation, and the garrison came to England*.

The national spirit was now inflamed to the highest pitch of resentment on this outrage, and nothing but open hostilities could be conceived as adequate to the injury that had been received.

Though the rumour of war begun even before the rising of parliament to be very prevalent, it was not sufficient to weaken the attention of

* There are many interesting facts in the negotiation concerning Falkland's Islands, which are not to be found in the public accounts of this transaction, and as they tend in some degree to throw a light upon his majesty's character, they may without impropriety be given in this place.

On the 20th of February, 1770, two Spanish frigates arrived at Port Egmont; and, in the name of the King of Spain, ordered all our people to evacuate the island. But Captain Hunt, who was the English commanding officer there, refused to obey; upon which, the Spaniards took possession of the island in the name of his Catholic majesty, and gave the English notice, in form, to quit the same in six months.

On the 6th of March, Captain Hunt sailed for England, leaving Captain Fermor at Falkland's Island. He thought it the most advisable to bring intelligence of the above transaction to the ministry at home; and, at the same time, leave a force at the island, to watch the motions of the Spaniards.

On the 30th of May, 1770, captain Hunt arrived at Plymouth, and immediately set out for London, and acquainted the lords of the Admiralty with every particular at Falkland's islands. The king having expressed a desire to see his journal, it was carried to his majesty by sir Edward Hawke. Some account of this affair having got into the public prints, the ministry immediately contradicted it in the strongest terms. Their writers asserted, that the Spanish frigates touched at Port-Egmont only to get fresh water; that the officers did not even go ashore, &c. In about six weeks after the arrival of captain Hunt, prince Masserano, the Spanish minister in London, acquainted lord Weymouth, in a conference, that by that time the forces of his Catholic majesty were certainly in possession of Falkland's islands. Still no notice was taken.

The affair was kept secret until the 9th of September, when advice arrived from Spain, that Falkland's islands were actually taken by the Spaniards. The same courier brought advice of the galleons being arrived at Cadiz.

On the 13th of September, the Admiralty ordered sixteen guard-ships to be got ready. This was the first alarm. The stocks fell considerably. More guard-ships were ordered, and press-warrants were issued. A few knew the cause, but the public were kept ignorant. Lord Holland, lord Hertford, and several other ministerial lords, and their friends, sold large sums out of the funds. The duke of Bedford's party were for preserving the peace at any rate; and lord Rochford being of a different opinion, they tried to remove him. The king refused to comply with their wishes.

A *bon mot* at this time deserves to be noted. Lord Hertford asked lord Rochford, at court, "Well, my lord, what news—peace or war?" Lord Rochford answered, "They are at seventy-nine, seven-eighths, my lord."

On the 22d of September, the Favourite frigate, captain Fermor, arrived at Portsmouth, from Falkland's islands, with the remainder of our people; the Spaniards having taken possession of the islands on the 24th of June, 1770, with a superior force.

the people to what they deemed their more immediate interest. Not wholly disheartened by the pertinacious rejection of their addresses to the throne, they again had recourse to this expedient as the only one in their power. A few days after the rising of parliament, an address, remonstrance, and petition, were presented by the city. In it, they lamented the heavy displeasure under which they seemed to have fallen with his majesty, and again they begged to renew their former petitions respecting the dissolution of parliament. The answer to this address led to a very particular circumstance. His majesty was pleased to speak in the following manner :

“ I should have been wanting to the public, as well as myself, if I had not expressed my dissatisfaction at the late address. My sentiments on that subject continue the same, and I should ill deserve to be considered as the father of my people, if I could suffer myself to be prevailed upon to make such a use of my prerogative, as I cannot but think inconsistent with the interest, and dangerous to the constitution of the kingdom.”

Whether Mr. Beckford, then lord mayor, and who presented the address, foresaw this answer and prepared something of the kind, or whether sudden indignation animated his invention is uncertain, but he requested leave to answer the king !—a proceeding altogether unprecedented, at least unheard of, in this country. He was, however, permitted to speak. The first part of his reply was almost an abridgment of the petition ; the latter part deserves to be recorded on more accounts than one.

“ Permit me, sire, further to observe, that whoever has already dared, or shall hereafter endeavour, by false insinuations and suggestions, to alienate your majesty’s affections from your loyal subjects in general, and from the

city of London in particular, is an enemy to your majesty’s person and family, a violator of the public peace, and a betrayer of our happy constitution as it was established at the glorious and necessary revolution.”

No answer was returned by the king, but it gave rise to many different opinions, and by the majority of the nation was called a bold step. Even they who blamed it most, admired the manly and spirited manner in which he delivered his sentiments. The people, as it might be expected, almost adored him for the deed. The court party called it indecent—unprecedented—impudent, and little short of high treason. The resentment of the court was discharged in a manner more gentle. When afterwards Mr. Beckford went to St. James’s, with an address on the queen’s safe delivery of a princess, he was formally told that “ As his lordship had thought fit to speak to his majesty after his answer to the late remonstrance, as it was unusual, his majesty desired that nothing of the kind might happen for the future.”

In the following month Mr. Beckford died, a costly monument was erected to his memory in Guildhall, on which was inscribed his answer to the king.

Parliament met in November. During the recess no change had taken place in the ministry, lord North maintained a powerful ground, aided by a great majority. The speech from the throne began with mention of the insult lately offered to the honour of this nation by an act of the governor of Buenos Ayres, in seizing one of his majesty’s possessions ; that an immediate demand of satisfaction should be made for this injury ; that the necessary preparations, in order to do ourselves justice, had also been made ; that these preparations should not be discontinued. As to the colonists, it observed,

that notwithstanding the cessation of the competitions which distressed the commerce of the country, there were still grounds of complaint from Massachusetts's Bay; the speech concluded with an apology for the increase of supplies and recommending unanimity.

The disputes on the subject of the addresses ran very high. The ministry urged a spirited address, because it would convince our enemies, that however dissentient on particular occasions we may be from each other, yet no people on earth were more unanimous against a common enemy; and it was further argued, that an address was merely as a compliment to the throne, and at this crisis to make invidious objections could proceed from nothing but an inclination to insult the dignity of the crown. The addresses were ultimately presented, although in that of the house of commons, there was a coolness which drew from his majesty the remark, "If this be intended as a compliment to me—it is a very cool one indeed."

His majesty now directed his principal attention to the education of his children, and it is not possible for any parent to have been more cautious and circumspect in the choice of those to whom was to be entrusted the important task of education, than was exemplified in his majesty. It was not merely the possession of talents, nor an extensive display of erudition, which determined his majesty in the choice of the instructors of his children, but the most nice and scrupulous examination was instituted into the moral character of the individuals, and the slightest blemish was sufficient to determine his majesty on a rejection of the persons proposed to him. The chief preceptor in the royal family at this period was the earl of Holdernessee, but the personal charge was entrusted to Mons. de Selzes; which situation was principally obtained for him by the interest of Dr. Maclaine,

chaplain to the British embassy at the Hague, and the celebrated translator of *Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History*. These persons, however, did not retain their situations long, for on lord Holdernessee taking an active part in some of the great political questions of the day, contrary to the wishes of the court party, it was intimated to him that his resignation would be accepted. He was succeeded by the duke of Montague, as governor, to whom was attached Dr. Markham, afterwards advanced to the see of York. The elevation of the latter celebrated divine was owing to a particular circumstance, and it may be classed as one of those events in the life of an individual, which is designated under good fortune. Mr. Markham was the son of a respectable tradesman, and as he exhibited talents of a nature superior to his station in life, he was sent to one of the universities. There he soon became remarkable for the gravity of his deportment, the strict attention to his studies, and the rapid attainment of the different branches of academical knowledge. One day, a nobleman visited the university for the purpose of obtaining a tutor for his son, and he applied to the head master of the university at which Mr. Markham was studying, to recommend an individual to him adequate to the duties of the responsible situation of tutor. The nobleman and the master were at dinner when Mr. Markham passed the window. "There," exclaimed the master, "is the very man for you." Mr. Markham was invited in, and the interview closed with his acceptance of the situation. He soon after obtained the degree of doctor of divinity, and in a few years afterwards we find him preceptor of the royal family.

The simplicity in which the royal family were brought up, is strongly exemplified in an anecdote which is related of the duke of Montague, on attending the levee for the first time

after his visit to his daughter's family at Dalkeith-house. His majesty was always noted for making enquiries about the health of the children of those who were immediately about his person, and on the duke making the usual compliments, his majesty enquired about the health of the duke's grand-children. His grace thanked his majesty for his condescending inquiries, and informed him they were all well, and faring sumptuously every day on a meal of oatmeal pottage. "Oatmeal," said his majesty, "a little of it is very good in milk for children;" and he enquired where the best oatmeal was to be procured. The duke informed him, and his majesty immediately commissioned his grace to procure some for him, and from this time it became a part of the food of the future sovereign of the country.

Whatever may be said of the virtues of the princess dowager of Wales, and that she possessed some very eminent ones cannot be doubted, yet it is certain that she exercised a secret influence in several departments of his majesty's household, which very often deranged its functions, and plunged the king himself into the greatest embarrassment. It was this very influence which lord Holderness feared, and against which he said there was no contending, for it operated in secret, and therefore was the more dangerous. He was a man too rigid in his political principles, in themselves diametrically opposite to those of Leicester-house, to be considered as a favourite with the princess dowager; and it was the determination that his place should be occupied by a Scot of a more pleasant and flexible disposition, and who would not refuse to inculcate into the mind of his royal pupil, those principles which it had been her study to instil into the mind of her own son. In fact, his majesty appears to have been perpetually exposed to this secret influence of his

mother, not only in his political, but his domestic relations. It was her influence which induced lord Hawke to quit the admiralty, in 1770, on which a celebrated writer of that day makes the following comment:

"His majesty, God bless him, has got rid of every man, whose former services or present scruples could be supposed to give offence to her royal highness the princess dowager of Wales. Her royal highness's scheme of government, formed long before her husband's death, is now accomplished. She has succeeded in disuniting every party, and dissolving every connexion; and, by the mere influence of the crown, has formed an administration, such as it is, out of the refuse of them all. There are two leading principles in the politics of St. James's, which will account for almost every measure of government since the king's accession. The first is, that the prerogative is sufficient to make a lackey a prime minister, and to maintain him in that post, without any regard to the welfare or to the opinion of the people;—the second is, that none but persons insignificant in themselves, or of tainted reputation, should be brought into employment. Men of greater consequence and abilities, will have opinions of their own, and will not submit to the meddling, unnatural ambition of a mother, who grasps at unlimited power, at the hazard of her son's destruction. They will not suffer measures of public utility, which have been resolved upon in council, to be checked and controlled by a secret influence in the closet. Such men, consequently, will never be called upon, but in cases of extreme necessity. When that ceases, they find their places no longer tenable. To answer the purposes of an ambitious woman, an administration must be formed of more pliant materials; of men, who, having no connexion with each other, no per-

sonal interest, no weight or consideration with the people, may separately depend upon the smiles of the crown alone, for their advancement to high offices, and for their continuance in them. If such men resist the princess dowager's pleasure, his majesty knows that he may dismiss them without risking any thing from their resentment. His wisdom suggests to him, that if he were to choose his ministers for any of those qualities which might entitle them to public esteem, the nation might take part with them, and resent their dismissal. As it is, whenever he changes his servants, he is sure to have the people, in that instance, on his side.

"The princess dowager having now carried her plan of administration into effect, it is not to be wondered that she should be very unwilling to expose herself and her schemes to the uncertain events of a foreign war. She knows that a disaster abroad would not only defeat the cunning plan of female avarice and ambition, but that it might reach farther. The mothers of our kings have heretofore been impeached; and if the precedents are not so complete as they should be, they require and will admit of improvements."

Lord Bruce was also appointed one of the governors, but the only recommendation his lordship possessed was his extraction, for his pupil actually surpassed him in classical attainments; and his royal highness having once puzzled his tutor, he became the butt of the whole court, and he most willingly resigned. He was however, rewarded for his ignorance by the earldom of Aylesbury. It was during the tutorship of my lord Bruce that his royal highness the prince of Wales was reprimanded for some boyish faults, and wishing to take his boyish revenge, is related to have done so by stealing to the king's apartment, and shouting at the door, "Wilkes and forty-five for ever!" and

then speedily running away. It is hardly necessary to add, that his majesty laughed at the trick with his accustomed good humour.

We are now entering upon that period of his majesty's life, in which, with a laudable attention to the true interests of the nation, he applied himself to the improvement of the agriculture of the kingdom.

His majesty's views and intentions in forming and establishing the three differently soiled and managed farms at Windsor and Kew, were chiefly founded in his great love and fatherly care for the improvement of the country; and his natural fondness for those simple practices, which benefit and render mankind happy and comfortable in the social state.

It was example and agricultural advancement that particularly influenced and actuated his majesty's mind, conduct, and intentions, in those matters; as by holding up the former, the nobility and those possessed of large capital, and capable of making the necessary experimental and other trials, and the applications of science to the profession of husbandry, might be stimulated and induced to promote the latter, as they could never in any way be done by the common farmer, who year after year runs a regular round of the same kind; the effects and results of which that have followed, have clearly and sufficiently proved the propriety, correctness, and importance of such views and designs, in those who have the care of presiding over the affairs of a great nation. For though his majesty's farms in those places, were far from being directed and managed according to the most suitable and beneficial methods for displaying their different natures, uses, and advantages, with respect to the difference of their soils, circumstances, and the modes of performing the labour and other business on them, it was soon seen, that a

considerable and unusual attention and spirit were excited among the higher ranks, and the larger land proprietors and owners, in the kingdom, as well as among those in all situations who had the command of capital, all being eager to follow and imitate so useful and distinguished an example. The introduction of the Merino or Spanish fine-woolled breed of sheep by the king, and afterwards dispersing them over different parts of the country, had strongly shewn the capability and great utility of the growth of fine wool, for the occasional supply of our staple manufacture of the woollen kind in the climate of this country, and the necessity and benefit of attending to our own native fine woolled breeds of sheep. His majesty's designs in these points and particulars, were soon ably seconded by a physician of considerable ingenuity and eminence at Bath, who with the late lord Somerville, and other persons in different parts of the island, have, perhaps, nearly completed the business of this sort of improvements, as well as shewn the essential advantages and benefits of our native fine woolled breeds, in some of the uses and intentions of the sheep-breeder and wool dealer and manufacturer.

In other parts and districts of the kingdom, distinguished individuals have promoted the same spirit, and held forth similar examples to the public. In the more midland part of the country, the late Francis, duke of Bedford, whose well-stored and suitable mind, was ever disposed to all sorts of rural improvements, was not long in setting an additional example worthy of being imitated, and extended by all those who have the welfare and happiness of their country really at heart. His acute and comprehensive mind, embraced the whole range of such improvements and benefits, besides bettering the machinery

and cultivation of the soil in different particulars—the promoting of the means by which the best and most useful and advantageous breeds of the several sorts of live-stock could be raised—the feeding and fattening them in the most effectual and ready manner, with the least possible quantity of food—and the decision of many other points and circumstances of difficulty—were in some measure the result of his nice observation and inquiry. A sort of annual meeting was formed under the title of “Woburn Sheep-shearing”, and prizes often adjudged for most sorts of improvements of this nature; the most distinguished persons, agriculturists, breeders of farming live stock, graziers, and others, being present. Such meetings, which were long kept up, and of the greatest utility in extending information of this kind, have now, under the direction and management of his worthy successor, somewhat terminated in the Smithfield Christmas Annual Show of fat and lean Live-stock, of different kinds, which still keeps alive and diffuses the true and beneficial agricultural spirit so much expected and desired by the king.

In the south-eastern part of the nation T. W. Coke, Esq., has ever been most strenuous in promoting and extending the same sort of spirit and inquiry, in order to the bettering and diffusing more fully the knowledge of every sort of rural and agricultural improvement, whether as relating to the soil and its products, or the live-stock which feed upon its pasturage and herbs. The circumstance of so very distinguished a commoner being thus constantly ready to use his best endeavours in spreading and extending such a spirit through the whole country, but more especially and particularly in his adjoining districts, by collecting the most able, informed, and practical men on such subjects, at his annual Holkham-Hall Sheep-shearing, and

other meetings, must have had the best effects, and those which his majesty had so particularly in his intention in instituting and promoting the culture and management of such varied kinds of farms and farming.

In the north-western part of England the same kind of spirit and improvement have been kept up, and equally fostered and cherished by J. C. Curwen, Esq., a not less zealous and persevering individual, by endeavouring to draw together men of the best information and talents for such purposes, at annual meetings of a similar kind. His varied attempts and inquiries in this way have been greatly successful, and abundantly beneficial, in disseminating and spreading the spirit and desire of agricultural improvement, as well as the knowledge of many important particulars in the practice of the art; of which no doubt can be entertained, that they have been highly serviceable in bettering and advancing the state and circumstances of northern husbandry and farming, and in shewing the justness and utility of his majesty's views and designs on that subject.

At this period, and long before, societies and public meetings for bettering the practice and amending and improving the knowledge of the art in many respects, had been formed by the principal landed proprietors, and more enlightened agriculturists and farmers, in several parts of the kingdom; so that then, and till lately, almost in every quarter the spirit of improvement and exertion began and continued to display itself, which was highly flattering to the patriotic hopes and wishes of the king.

But, in order to put a finishing hand to so important, useful, and beneficial a design, and to furnish and provide a medium through which such excellent and desirable consequences might constantly flow and improve the country, a national Board of Agriculture and internal

improvement were determined upon, which his majesty was willing to suppose and trust would still further and more effectually aid and assist his views respecting the amelioration and improvement of the kingdom, in the whole of their different bearings and relations; but it was soon perceived that though the institution was well-calculated and suited for such a purpose, from some cause or other, as in the cases of his majesty's farms, the properly experienced, managing, and directing minds, were not there to be found. The board has therefore rather provided places for its presidents, secretary, and clerks, and a lounge for its members during the sitting of parliament, than an efficient establishment for the advancement of the agriculture and the internal economy of the country. For what has been done by it, though the expense to the nation has been so considerable? Merely the collection and publication of the reports of the facts, circumstances, and practices, good or bad, of the different counties of the kingdom, done at a needless prodigious expenditure of money and time, and the supplying from the press an annual volume or two of communications from individuals, whose authority is doubtful, or but little depended upon even by the board itself. No application of the useful facts, circumstances, opinions, and practices, so brought together for the benefit of the country—no concentration of them into suitable and proper forms for being distributed and spread over the whole nation, to assist its improvement in many different respects and ways—no experimental trials or attempts in any way to better and advance the knowledge of the art—no attention to improve and better, the implements and machinery which are necessary to it, and to apply them more usefully and conveniently. In short, no regard to any thing which should seem requisite to be done by an

useful and efficient public board. No wonder then that his majesty should feel so greatly disappointed, and so much disgusted with the narrow, confined, and selfish nothingness, of such an establishment.

The lesson here held forth may not, however, perhaps, be wholly unworthy the attention of some future king, as whatever may be the policy or notions of statesmen on the subject, the constant productive labour afforded by cultivation and rural improvement, which creates, raises, and provides the useful necessities of life, from that which was before of no utility nor value, must unquestionably be one principal source of national wealth; and the various plentiful supplies so produced, must be the means of affording comfort, prosperity and happiness to the people.

The attention which his majesty paid to agricultural pursuits, obtained for him, what he was pleased to call it, the flattering cognomen of "Farmer George;" in fact, he was as much the farmer as any of his subjects. He sent his produce regularly to market, and he became thereby intimately acquainted with the price of every commodity, which enabled him to detect many impositions which were intended to be practised upon him. We are enabled to state an authentic anecdote upon this subject, which has never been made public. Some of the finest sheep which were sent to the Smithfield-market, were the property of his majesty; although Peter Pindar in his epistle to Billy Ramus, humourously describes the manner in which his majesty disposed of the rotten sheep of his flocks, and accuses him with getting the best price for the worst commodity. The king, however, was one day looking over the bills of his household, for the avowed purpose of ascertaining the difference of the price at which he sold his sheep, and that which his

butcher charged him, when he discovered, that although his finest sheep yielded him on an average only 4d. a pound, his butcher nevertheless charged him 11d., and sometimes 12d. for the prime joints. It must, however, be stated to the credit of his majesty, that he never made a practice of injuring the tradesmen of his household, by ordering the supply of particular articles to be made from his own farms; on the contrary, his sheep were sometimes sold to the very butcher who supplied his tables. In the present case, he desired that the butcher, who had charged him with an extortionate price should be ordered before him, and after some trifling observations, he informed the butcher, that a pen of very fine sheep was to be sold on the following market-day at Smithfield, and he had a particular wish to taste the mutton. His majesty even told him the name of the salesman, who always sold his majesty's sheep under a fictitious name, and the marks which the sheep would have upon them, on which the butcher in the most humble manner declared that his majesty's commands should be complied with. The butcher repaired to market, and sought out the salesman mentioned by the king. The sheep were pointed out to him, with the exact marks mentioned by his majesty, and the butcher in high glee drove his purchase home. The butcher saw not the snare that was laid for him: the mutton was sent to his majesty's table, and, on asking the price at which it was charged, he ascertained that it was 12d. per pound. The butcher was sent for, and he was questioned as to the price which he gave for the sheep. He declared, that from their superior quality, they were the dearest animals in the market, and that he had given 2d. a stone more for them than for the other sheep which he had purchased. This his majesty knew to be false, for he had pro-

caused the bill of sale from his agent, and he therefore knew the exact price which the butcher had given. The king declared that he did not see how the farmer could pay his rent, &c., at the price at which produce was then selling; "True, your majesty," said the butcher, "the farmers are a set of scoundrels, they wish nobody to live but themselves." "And you butchers," said the king, "are determined that nobody shall live but yourselves; the sheep you purchased were mine, you gave me 4½d. per pound, and you have charged 12d. I am a rich farmer, but there are many poor ones, and it is the duty of the rich to protect the poor, therefore return to your shop, I will order your bills to be paid, and although I am a king, I will not suffer an imposition to be practiced upon me, when I have the means of discovering it."

In regard to the education of his children, and especially that of the prince of Wales, his majesty was so extremely satisfied with the general line of conduct pursued by Dr. Markham, that he bestowed upon him a particular mark of his favour, by presenting him with the bishoprick of Chester; but this promotion did not prevent him from retaining his office as preceptor, in which he was at this time assisted by Dr. Cyril Jackson. His majesty placed the most unlimited confidence in these estimable men, and he was unremitting in his attention to the education of his children, notwithstanding the violence of party spirit raging without, which rose to such a height, that when he went to parliament on the 30th of March, to give the royal assent to numerous bills, it was expected that some popular commotion would take place; and accordingly the high constable of Westminster with several peace officers kept close to the state carriage. There was an immense concourse assembled, who

made the most horrid noise, and threw out many insulting expressions; on which account, the horse guards were obliged not only to cover the coach, but the constables were also forced to use their staves to keep off the infuriated mob. In the midst of this confusion, his majesty sat calm and dignified, and merely expressed his sorrow for the misguided people.

In the course of the spring, his majesty infringed so far upon his regular plan of immediate personal superintendence over the prince of Wales, who was then nine years of age, that he established a separate household for him at the queen's palace, where a royal chaplain was appointed to reside, for the purpose of reading prayers every day.

It cannot be doubted that for an office so desirable, a number of candidates were not ready to present themselves, amongst them was the unfortunate Dr. Dodd. This reverend divine was supported by the whole influence of lord Chesterfield, but he was unsuccessful, principally, as it is believed, through the disapprobation of the king himself, arising from his private judgment of Dodd's character.

On the 5th of June 1771, the present duke of Cumberland was born, and about that period the duke of that title was married, much to the displeasure of the king. In consequence of which, in the first session of 1772 a singular act was passed for restricting the marriages of the descendants of George II., a measure which originated from the recent alliance of the duke of Cumberland with Mrs. Horton, and the duke of Gloucester to the countess of Waldegrave.

By this memorable act, the marriage of any of the royal family from that period are declared null and void, without the approbation of his majesty shall be previously obtained; but should the parties have attained the age of twenty-five, on giving notice to the privy coun-

cil of their intention, the marriage so contracted shall be valid, unless the parliament shall within twelve months after disannul the same.

How either house, but the lords in particular, came to pass such an obnoxious and degrading bill into a law, is very unaccountable. The dignity of the hereditary nobility of the land was certainly affected by it, many of whom could boast of their ancestry having been allied to the crown by marriage, and some of them having large portions of royal blood running untainted in their veins. Nor can this measure be vindicated in a moral and political point of view. A legislative restraint on the affections, is a violation of the laws of nature, and cannot be defended on any principle of reason. To curb the progress of licentiousness, to prevent improper connexions, and precipitate alliances, may be just, but to break a virtuous union religiously sanctioned, and bastardize the fruits of it, is undoubtedly a stretch beyond the prerogative of human legislation. Politically considered this act appears quite useless.

Vague claims to the crown from relationship in an age like the present, would be too unlikely to require a preventive. In the days of baronial ferocity and power, they might be matters of dreadful importance, but the wars of the roses are impossible to occur again in this country. It may well admit of a doubt, indeed, whether this restraining law is adequate to the intent for which it was framed. Still its policy was weak, and its principle indefensible.

The same session was rendered remarkable by a petition in behalf of some dissatisfied clergy of the church of England, to the house of commons, praying for an abolition of subscription to the thirty-nine articles of religion. These gentlemen formed themselves into a society at the Feathers Tavern in the Strand, and were mostly of Socinian sentiments. A dif-

fused and violent controversy was set on foot in consequence of this application, which has hardly been exceeded by any religious dispute since the reformation, the famous Bangorian controversy not excepted. The petition was rejected by a great majority, and several of the petitioners seceded from the established church. It was, indeed, a more serious attack than had been regularly made against the Anglican church since its establishment, and required no ordinary degree of vigour on behalf of her friends to repel it. In fact, the scheme went much deeper than was implied by the mere prayer of the petition, for it had for its object nothing else than a removal of the ecclesiastical establishment entirely. Once remove this barrier and the church will be filled with a variety of preachers of totally heterogeneous opinions. *Here* would be an Arian subtilizing the nature of our Saviour according to metaphysical conceptions of his own, and *there* would be a Socinian levelling him to the common condition of humanity. Enthusiasts and Deists would alternately pour forth their effusions in the same temple, one venting forth the wildest conceits of heated fanaticism, damning men by millions, and the other descanting on the moral fitness of things and the excellence of human reason in elevating the mind of man, without any other assistance, to the utmost pitch of perfection.

The fate of this petition, it is to be hoped, will prove a lesson of caution to all who have any sense of regard for the interests of real Christianity.

On the 8th of February 1772, his majesty experienced the afflicting loss of his mother. She had been for some time in a declining state of health, although the vigour of her constitution, and the regular mode of life which she adopted, enabled her for some time to withstand the attack of the disease which ultimately

led to her dissolution. On the night preceding her death, the king was present in her apartment when the physicians attended, and he was most particular in his inquiries respecting the degree of danger which awaited the royal patient. On one of the physicians feeling her pulse, he informed the princess, that it was more regular than he had felt it for some time; to which she replied, "Yes, and I think I shall have a good night's rest."

This intelligence was very consoling to his majesty, but on leaving his mother, he observed that she embraced him with more than ordinary affection. The king mentioned this circumstance to the physician, who informed his majesty, in the most guarded and delicate manner, that his royal patient was so far gone, that he did not expect she would survive the night. His majesty, therefore, immediately changed his resolution, and determined to await the event. He returned to the apartment of his mother, but she appeared to be sleeping soundly; he then returned, leaving instructions with her attendants, that he should be apprized of any change which presented itself. Her death was, however, so gradual and easy, that no change was perceptible in her; she lay during the night in a state of tranquillity, until a few moments before her death, when she laid her hand upon her heart, and expired without a groan. The king was no sooner informed of the melancholy event, than he hastened to her apartment—kissed her hand—and burst into tears. His majesty shortly after retired to St. James's.

As a proof of his majesty's great regard to decency, propriety, and the performance of his sacred duties, he took the most effectual means on the decease of his mother, who had often expressed much horror and disgust at being exposed after death, especially to those, not of

her own sex, to have a proper confidential person procured, in addition to those ordinarily employed, to see that every thing was conducted in the most decorous manner; he gave his own personal directions to have every thing ready as quickly as possible, and when all the preparations were made for placing her in the coffin, he made a point of being present at the awful ceremony, and his commands were strictly obeyed, for none but females were in attendance until the completion of the business.

His majesty's respect for those who had been in any way servicable in her family, is particularly worthy of notice; and although many instances of it are on record, yet it is certain that the historian of his life would have had a greater number to recount, if he had been left to the bias of his own judgment and humanity. In confirmation of this amiable trait in the character of his majesty, when the whole of the domestics of his late mother, with one solitary exception, passed the board of green cloth, in order to be provided for during their lives, the only one who did not appear was a house maid who was on the eve of being married. She was, however, given to understand that she might remain in the house until the marriage took place. This circumstance coming to the knowledge of the king, he sent for the young man, to whom she was going to be married, and told him, that as all the domestics of his late mother were provided for, he considered himself in justice bound to provide also for the servant to whom he was on the point of being married; he therefore desired to know the exact amount which would be necessary to set him up in the business to which he had been bred, which was that of a plumber and glazier. The sum was mentioned, and not only the whole amount was advanced, but also a sufficiency to purchase the lease of a house in St. James's-street, to which

the young married couple soon after repaired, and they carried on the business with much success for two or three years, when the man was unluckily reduced to the necessity of becoming a bankrupt, owing to the artifices and unprincipled acts of two rival tradesmen. On returning from obtaining his certificate, in consequence of his prospects for life being ruined, he was induced to enlist under a feigned name in a regiment which was going abroad, leaving his wife and his child wholly unprovided for, and no intelligence was obtained of him for more than two years. Information of this circumstance was, by some means, conveyed to his majesty, and he again humanely interested himself, by inducing several ladies, who were then the leaders of the fashionable world, to employ the deserted wife as a dress-maker, by which means, she was enabled to get a comfortable living for her family. The regiment in which the husband had enlisted was ordered home, and he returned to his wife and family. This intelligence was also conveyed to his majesty, and he immediately sent for the soldier, to whom he expressed himself in strong terms of disapprobation on the line of conduct which he adopted, in leaving his wife and family. "Please your majesty," said the soldier, "you know not what feelings of the heart those are, when a man comes home to his family, and they ask him for bread, and he has none to give them." "And was that the case with you," asked the humane monarch? "It was, please your majesty," said the soldier; "but I knew I left my wife in the care of one who would not let her starve, but I had no claim upon his bounty." "And who was that person," asked the king? "It was yourself, please your majesty," said the soldier. "Go, go," said his majesty, "your confidence was not wrongly placed." His majesty soon afterwards put the

soldier upon the list of the Chelsea pensioners, and he was constantly employed about one of the royal palaces.

Thus it was the pride of his majesty to do good in secret. On a still more recent occasion, the younger branch of a noble family, now a marquis, who had been reduced to the utmost extreme of poverty and want, by becoming the dupe of sharpers and gamblers, was obliged to live in a most miserable lodging in the vicinity of May-fair, upon the mere casual support of his few friends, for the man in distress has seldom many. This circumstance was related to his majesty, who actuated by the generous impulse of his nature, readily pardoned his errors, as being those of weakness and inexperience, and notwithstanding the malicious representations of many persons about the court, whose conduct his majesty despised, he took the first opportunity of restoring the unfortunate nobleman to his rank, and he has since proved a bright and useful ornament to society.

It is scarcely possible for an exalted female to pass through this world without being assailed at one time or other, by the fiends of calumny; but it may be affirmed with propriety, that no female ever smarted under their lash more severely than the mother of our late sovereign. Let us, however, attend to her character as delineated by bishop Newton, her chaplain, and who, certainly, had many and frequent opportunities of observing the conduct of her royal highness, and sometimes on those occasions, when she might be supposed to be off her guard, and consequently exposed to have her actions scrutinized in the most severe and rigid manner.

"Her royal highness," says the bishop, "was a remarkable instance of the fluctuation and uncertainty of public favour, For, from

her first coming very young into this country, her behaviour was so discreet and prudent, so courteous, and affable, that she gained the love and esteem of the whole nation; and no princess was ever more admired than she was, till some time after the death of Frederick Prince of Wales. But the late king's (George II.) behaviour to her upon that occasion was such, that she could not with decency support and encourage the faction that was formed against the court, and hence it was that the tide of popularity which rose so strong in her favour first began to turn against her. Upon his present majesty's (George III.) accession to the throne, when his influence was believed to be greater, the clamour of faction increased in proportion.

"The scandalous author of the *North Briton* laid to her charge many things of which she was entirely innocent. One day being asked why he could assert a particular which he knew was not true, "No matter for that," he replied, "it will do very well for a North Briton, the people will swallow any thing." She would often ask in the morning, "Well, what have the papers said of me to-day," and often read them over and smiled at them. Nor ever was more abuse with less foundation, and, it is to be hoped she regarded it as little as she deserved it. Her good deeds were silent and unknown, for never was any one actuated with a truer spirit of benevolence and charity.

"The sums which she expended in private charity and pensions, amounted to no less than ten thousand pounds a-year, and the merit of her charities was greatly enhanced by their secrecy. Several families who were relieved by her, did not so much as know who was their benefactor till her death, when the current of her bounty ceased to flow.

"The calmness and composure of her death,

were further proofs and attestations of the goodness of her life. She died as she had lived, beloved and honoured most by those who knew her."

So far bishop Newton, and it must be owned that he has drawn a most favourable character of his royal patroness, nor is it our intention to question the existence of many virtues in the character of her royal highness; one thing however is certain, that she interfered too much in the politics of the times, and that her influence was sometimes exercised not to the benefit of the country. It was an influence too that worked in secret, and therefore the more dangerous; besides, it is an historical fact, to which we cannot close our eyes, without exposing ourselves to the imputation of the grossest partiality, that the frequent changes in the administration which distinguished the first years of his late majesty's reign, and which clogged the machinery of government so injuriously to the interests of the country, were brought about by the princess's party. It was on this account, that she became the object of the malignity of faction and of party, which, however, it must be allowed, she bore with the greatest fortitude and contempt. On one occasion, in the midst of the loudest clamours, and whilst popular outrage threatened the palace and the person of her royal highness, she coolly examined the specimens of some curious Birmingham ware, exhibited to her, by an eminent manufacturer of that place; and, even when the horrid yells in the court-yard of Carlton-House nearly prevented her voice being heard, she merely said, "How I pity these poor deluded people, I hope they will know better by and by."

A very striking instance of his majesty's extreme regard for public and private decorum was exemplified at this period: on his hearing

of the archiepiscopal routs which were given by archbishop Cornwallis at his palace, and which his majesty considered derogatory to the dignity of the archiepiscopal character, he addressed to him the following admonitory letter :

My good Lord Primate,

I could not delay giving you the notification of the grief and concern with which my breast was affected, at receiving an authentic information that routs have made their way into your palace. At the same time I must signify to you my sentiments on this subject, which hold these levities and vain dissipations as utterly inexpedient, if not unlawful, to pass in a residence for many centuries devoted to divine studies, religious retirement, and the extensive exercise of charity and benevolence—I add, in a place where so many of your predecessors have led their lives in such sanctity, as has thrown lustre upon the pure religion they professed and adorned.

From the dissatisfaction with which you must perceive I behold these improprieties, not to speak in harsher terms, and still more pious principles, I trust you will suppress them immediately ; so that I may not have occasion to shew any further marks of my displeasure, or to interpose in a different manner. May God take your grace into his almighty protection !

I remain, my Lord Primate,

Your gracious friend,

G. R.

The king, though remarkable for a uniform urbanity to his subjects, and for seldom compromising his dignity by personal aversions, is understood to have deviated a little from this elevated line of conduct in the case of the demagogue Wilkes. There was enough in the man's character, separated from those grounds which made him a favourite with the people, to make any good man detest him ; the manifestation of such a feeling on the part of his sovereign, is the only thing on the propriety of which there can be no doubt. When Mr. Wilkes went to court as lord mayor of London,

it was not the man, but the high office he filled, which his majesty ought to have recognised, and the city had perhaps reason to complain, when their mayor was told by the lord in waiting, that it was expected he should not address his majesty.

No monarch ever preserved his dignity more in public, or could divest himself of it more in private than his late majesty ; the following anecdote is a proof of the latter. During one of his visits to Cheltenham, he by accident took a look into the house of a humble barber ; and, whilst he was making some inquiries, a young child of the barber's being left alone, was scalded by the falling of a tea-kettle, and his majesty perceiving that it was for want of a servant, called out in his usual manner, " Sad accident, sad accident ! but no one can be in two places at one time—must have a girl—must have a girl—so take care of it—I'll pay—I'll pay," putting down some money, and humanely sending a surgeon and a fireguard, as he looked upon himself to have been the cause of the misfortune. From this time the barber was employed as his wig-dresser, from which circumstance probably originated the well-known story of the " Barber's Wife."

His majesty at this period adopted that temperate and abstemious mode of life from which he afterwards never departed. He generally rose between six and seven, and his first act was that of private devotion in his own apartment, in which he generally spent an hour before breakfast. Having taken his breakfast, he dressed, and attended to whatever public business might be laid before him ; after which his children were brought to him for examination and instruction, when he dismissed them to the superintendence of the queen, who was so fully impressed with the importance of the maternal character, that she regularly passed

her forenoon in the society of her children, and by way of example, not one of her children ever saw her time unoccupied. She was always employed in drawing and needle-work, and the family of the first monarch of the world resembled rather one in an opulent station of life, than one invested with the dignity and importance of royalty.

His habitual abstinence from the customary pleasures of the table was scarcely equalled by any private person in his dominions. Fruit was the only luxury in which he indulged, and that was cultivated in the royal gardens to high perfection, and served at table in great abundance.

His majesty generally passed his time between breakfast and dinner in his study, or, when the weather permitted, he was scarcely a day without being on horse-back; indeed his late majesty was a most distinguished horseman, and no horse whatever could possess too much speed for him. His courage was also the admiration of all those persons who were permitted to join in the royal hunt, and the most dangerous leaps were regarded by his late majesty with the utmost indifference; nothing indeed could have stopped his arduous career, in the true sportsman's style, but the duty imposed upon his attendants of pointing out to the king the danger of exposing his sacred person, upon which the happiness of the nation depended. His late majesty was always in the field to a minute, and frequently the first on the spot, so much did he enjoy the pleasures of the chase.

It is a point of etiquette, in the royal hunts, that no one be permitted to ride before his majesty, for which purpose the prickers are appointed to prevent a too near approach to the person of his majesty. It happened, however, during one of the chases, that a young sportsman, unable to govern his horse, rode past the

king, and the heels of his horse threw some dirt into his majesty's face. The prickers were on the alert to resent this affront, but his majesty exclaimed in the most good-natured manner, "Stop, stop; never punish a man for what he cannot help."

His majesty never, till indisposition obliged him, omitted the honour of his annual visit (with his whole family) to the races at Ascot-heath, at which place he gave a plate of 100 guineas, to be run for on the first day, by such horses as had regularly hunted with his own hounds the preceding winter; as the king was known not only to be attentive to the perfections of each horse, but to analyze minutely their qualifications during their exertions in the chase.

At his table he was particularly temperate, seldom indulging in more than four glasses of wine, after which, if no affairs of state engaged his attention, he passed the afternoon in reading some favourite author to her majesty, who testified great attachment to the English poets, and particularly to Shakespeare, although he is the most difficult author for a foreigner to understand; and it was often observed by his majesty, that the scurrilous abuse of Shakespeare by Voltaire, must have originated in his not being able to comprehend his beauties. It is well-known that the king at that time, however hurried his colloquial accent, read extremely well, not only in private, but also in the delivery of his public speeches.

At supper he never went beyond a glass of wine and water, after which meal the happy pair joined in private devotion, and gratitude to God for their mutual blessings. Sometimes reading a portion of some well-written religious tract, and retiring at an early hour, when fashionable dissipation had scarcely begun her nocturnal orgies.

The day thus spent in social comforts, each

rising morn presented them with the high-flavoured joys of temporal delight, enjoying in themselves all the happiness of wedded and paternal love, and exhibiting its superiority over those pleasures which are derived from a mere gratification of the senses.

The patronage which his majesty had hitherto bestowed upon literature was at this time to have been crowned by the institution of a new order of knighthood, under the title of the Order of Minerva, to be confined solely to artists and literary men. The order was to consist of twenty-four knights and the sovereign, and to succeed in dignity the military Order of the Bath. The knights were to wear a silver star of nine points, and a straw coloured ribbon from the right shoulder to the left. The figure of Minerva was to have been embroidered in the centre of the star, with the motto, *Omnia posthabita Scientiæ*.

This intention of his majesty was no sooner made known, than all the literati of the age saw themselves already decorated with the straw coloured ribbon of the order. The whole tribe of novelists, poetasters, dramatists, and historians, began to squabble amongst each other as to the merits of their several literary bantlings, and disputed the justice of their claims to the distinguished honour of beholding K.M. attached to their names, and the altercation became at last so public, that his majesty fearing it would prove the most disorderly order that was ever instituted, abandoned the idea of it altogether, and the self-elected knights of Minerva returned to their garrets to implore in secret the inspirations of the goddess.

In the month of January 1773, the royal family received an addition by the birth of a son, the present duke of Sussex, and in the following month the sale took place of the effects of the princess dowager of Wales, which

is merely mentioned to shew the difference between those times and the present, in regard to the purchase of objects of virtu. In these times the tooth of a mammoth, or some horse's heads without bodies, and some bodies without heads, will fetch the price of the estates of our ancestors; but in former times, if we may judge by the prices at which some of the valuables of the princess of Wales were sold, our ancestors preferred their money to stocking their cabinets with objects covered with the valuable green rust of antiquity, or with curiosities, the intrinsic value of which can only be put into the scale with some of the invaluable relics which are displayed to the wondering traveller in the catholic churches. At the sale of the princess of Wales's effects, a curious French collection of silver medals of Louis XIV. and XV. sold for only eight pounds. The numismatic enthusiast of the nineteenth century would have given as many hundreds for them. A German Prayer-book with various devices, enamelled in gold, and embellished with diamonds and miniature paintings, was sold for twenty-six guineas.

Some very serious reflections were thrown upon his majesty, in allowing the property of his mother to be exposed to public sale; and it must be owned that in some respects, the reflections were well-founded. Amongst her effects there were many articles of rare value, which would have graced the cabinet of a sovereign, but which the poverty of the times, or the inferior state of the arts could not properly appreciate; and as it was generally known that so far from her royal highness being involved in debt, that she had accumulated a considerable sum, the sale of her effects was attributed to mercenary motives on the part of the king, when it must be candidly stated, that no such motive ever operated upon the mind of his majesty.

The influence of his majesty might indeed have kept back many of the articles from being exposed for sale, but the executors of her royal highness were bound to act up to the letter of her will, and on this view of the question his majesty stood completely exonerated from all blame in the transaction.

In June 1773, his majesty visited Portsmouth to witness a grand naval review, at which place he paid the most minute attention to every thing connected with the sea service; he examined many ships of war personally, and investigated every thing both in the dock-yard and ordnance wharf, with the greatest precision. His majesty was always an early riser, and one morning he rose before five o'clock to take an accurate survey of the ramparts, bastions, platforms, outworks, &c., which defend the garrison. The guard not being mounted when he ascended the walls, general Harvey apologised for their non-attendance, when his majesty turning round and looking at the great number of females, whom his presence had assembled together, said, with great pleasantry and gallantry, "Poh, poh! what need have I of further guards, my person cannot be better protected, than by those handsome females that surround me."

During his majesty's stay at Portsmouth, he entertained the officers of the fleet, the nobility, and others, with a magnificent entertainment; and, on this occasion a remarkable instance of the strength of his majesty's memory displayed itself.

Among the confectioners employed upon this occasion, the king thought he recognised a face, which at some period had been familiar to him, and ordered one of his attendants to make inquiry respecting this person. He was informed, that the stranger's name was Homan, that he had been brought up in the house of

Robinson, the confectioner, and that he was now assisting Mr. Robinson, in preparing the decorations for the table. Homan was complimented by Mr. Robinson and his friends upon these inquiries, as he was upon the interest the king was observed to take in them. Homan said it was many, or several years since he was near his majesty; that when he was an apprentice, it was his business to attend the confectioner's office at Leicester-house; at that time the king was a little boy, and alone, or with one of his brothers, would frequently steal to the office; at those times he used to give the prince a biscuit and sweetmeats, or a little fruit, as he had them to dispose of. Some months after the review, Homan received a note desiring his attendance at the lord chamberlain's office, where to his great and agreeable surprise, he was informed, that by command, he was appointed one of the pages to his majesty. The place was worth several hundreds a-year.

His majesty provided for the sons of his pages, but while he prosecuted their interest, would not allow them to enter the army. The king said, it was his opinion, that no one should enter the army as an officer, unless he possessed two hundred pounds a-year, independent of his pay; that this was necessary to enable him to keep his rank as an officer, and as a gentleman.

A laughable incident occurred to his majesty during his visit to Portsmouth, which was, that twelve of the *ladies* of Portsmouth solicited the honour of rowing his majesty on board one of the men of war. This request was most good-naturedly granted by his majesty, and he declared afterwards that his boat was *man'd* by twelve of the finest women in Portsmouth.

His majesty was so highly pleased with his visit in general, that when he left Portsmouth,

he was graciously pleased to order the sum of fifteen hundred pounds to be distributed to the artificers of the Dock-yard, three hundred and fifty pounds to the crews of the *Barfleur* and *Augusta* yachts, and two hundred and fifty pounds to the poor of Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport.

On the birth of the present Princess Sophia of Gloucester, Wilkes took hold of the occasion to offer what was then deemed a marked insult to his majesty. He called a common-council on the 9th of June, 1773, for the purpose of proposing an address to his majesty on the birth of a princess. The motion was seconded by Sir Watkin Lewes, but a considerable opposition took place, particularly by alderman Trecothick, who objected to it as an affront to his majesty, who up to that period had not acknowledged the duchess as his sister. Wilkes maintained that as the marriage was notorious, no affront could be offered in presenting him with an address on the issue of it, especially when the dukes of Richmond and Dorset, the bishop of Exeter, lady Albemarle, and other personages of the first quality, had been present at the delivery. The motion, however, was negatived, upon the more delicate plea, that it was not customary for the city to address, except for the issue of the immediate heir to the crown.

The young princess was baptised a few days afterwards, when the princess Amelia and the duke and duchess of Cumberland were the sponsors; from which circumstance it may be conjectured that the displeasure of his majesty at that period, was more a matter of etiquette than of strict family disagreement.

The gratification which his majesty experienced in his visit to Portsmouth, induced him to extend his examination of the dock-yards, and early in July he visited Woolwich, where

he was received with the most marked distinctions of loyalty, and with all the honours due to his illustrious station. He examined every department of this great national depôt, and was particularly minute in his investigation of the new foundry, established by Mr. Van Bruggen.

The name of Deluc is well known to every lover of science, and his celebrated controversy with La Metrie, in which, he successfully refuted the material principles of that great philosopher, must be familiar to every one in the least conversant with French literature. Deluc was a profound mathematician and geologist, and, on his arrival in England, he was immediately presented to their majesties, before whom he exhibited some interesting experiments with his newly-invented barometer, constructed for the express purpose of measuring heights. The king, from an early period of his life, was particularly partial to the study of mathematics, and this visit of Deluc afforded him peculiar pleasure. His majesty was aware that no degree of accuracy was to be expected from any instrument which is dependant upon the action of a variable atmosphere, and his doubts therefore were great, whether the altitude of any object taken by Deluc's barometer could be depended upon for its correctness. Deluc performed the experiment in the presence of his majesty; and, when the height of the tower was afterwards taken with a line, the calculations of Deluc were found to correspond within a few inches.

His majesty was so pleased with the utility of the instrument, that he gave Deluc permission to place his barometer in the Royal Observatory at Richmond; and the queen also accepted from the philosopher an hygrometer, upon an improved construction, applicable to the management of the moisture and tempera-

ture of the hot and green houses of the botanical establishment at Kew.

Those who estimated the understanding of his late majesty by that part of his conversation which was heard, or was likely to be heard by many, judged of it from a very erroneous standard. It was a consequence of his station, that he could not without ungraciousness, be silent, when he did not choose to talk of matters of serious interest, and he could seldom speak of these in public, without the risk of being misrepresented, and also of giving pain or exciting obloquy in some quarters, even if he should be fairly reported. A monarch, if he be at once sensible and good natured, is necessarily a talker of trifles amongst his mere courtiers, or in large companies. We cannot exactly describe the conduct of the king with his ministers, but it appears upon record that he could converse well with the men of the mightiest mind of his time—with Samuel Johnson, the scholar and the moralist—and with Beattie, whom the former justly characterizes as “a poet, a philosopher, and a good man.” Few things are more delightful in modern reading, than the descriptions given of these conversations. In sir William Forbes’s *Life of Beattie*, the acuteness, good sense, and good nature of his majesty, are well depicted: he says,

“About the beginning of June 1773, Beattie went to London. His encouragement upon his former visit was, to a man in his easy circumstances, a sufficient inducement to undertake another journey to the capital. He had another reason which, though considered by the envious and illiberal as entailing servitude, has never hitherto been applied to an improper purpose. His merit, as an author, had even called the attention of royalty: a signal proof how highly he was rated by all descriptions in the community.

“His present majesty has, beyond all pre-

cedent, extended his patronage to eminent literary characters. This patronage has originated solely from himself; and the most discontented candidates for public favour have not had the hardihood to affirm, that the royal bounty has in any instance been conferred upon an unworthy object. This is no small testimony to the rectitude of intention, and to the discrimination of the patron.

“A short time after Beattie went to London a memorial was presented to the king. Dr. Beattie had, it is likely, the most express assurance from his majesty’s servants that his memorial should not pass unnoticed. The form, however, of petitioning the king is never dispensed with. Beattie’s petition was favourably received.

“On the 30th of June, 1773, he was presented to the king at the levee by lord Dartmouth. The levee was on that day exceedingly crowded. Dr. Beattie, however, had the distinguished honour of conversing with the king for five minutes; a mark of attention not conferred upon ordinary men, and which those who are in the greatest favour do not always presume to expect.

“The substance of this conversation with his majesty consisted chiefly in high commendations and compliment, strongly and elegantly expressed on his writings, particularly his *Essay on Truth*. Such unexpected panegyric could not fail to make a lasting impression on his mind. Any attention from one in so elevated a situation (from the chief magistrate of a great nation) is a compliment which few have ever received.

“On the 21st of August following, Dr. Beattie received a letter from Mr. Robinson, lord North’s secretary, which communicated to him the agreeable information that his majesty had been pleased to appoint him a pension, and

assuring him that when other necessary business was despatched, the warrant for the payment of the pension should be made out.

"This was accordingly done after a reasonable time had elapsed. He was obliged, however, still to remain in London, as his business was not yet completed.

"Beattie was during this time informed that his majesty had expressed a desire to admit him to a private audience. And accordingly, on the 27th of October, he had an audience of their majesties at Kew."

The account of this interesting interview of Dr. Beattie with his majesty, is extracted from his Diary.

"Tuesday the 24th of August, I set out for Dr. Majendie's, at Kew-green. The doctor told me that he had not seen the king yesterday, but had left a note in writing to intimate that I was at his house to-day; and that one of the king's pages had come to him this morning to say, 'that his majesty would see me a little after twelve.'

"At twelve, the doctor and I went to the king's house at Kew. We had been only a few minutes in the hall, when the king and queen came in from an airing; and as they passed through the hall, the king called to me by name, and asked how long it was since I came from town. I answered about an hour. 'I shall see you,' says he, 'in a little.' The doctor and I waited a considerable time (for the king was busy), and then we were called into a large room, furnished as a library, where the king was walking about, and the queen sitting in a chair. We were received in the most gracious manner possible by both their majesties. I had the honour of a conversation with them (no body else being present but Dr. Majendie) for upwards of an hour, on a great variety of topics, in which both the king and queen joined, with a degree

of cheerfulness, affability, and ease, that was to me surprising, and soon dissipated the embarrassment which I felt at the beginning of the conference. They both complimented me, in the highest terms, on my *Essay* which, they said, was a book they always kept by them; and the king said he had one copy of it at Kew, and another in town, and immediately went and took it down from a shelf. I found it was the second edition. 'I never stole a book but one,' said his majesty, 'and that was your's (speaking to me); I stole it from the queen, to give it to lord Hertford to read.' He had heard that the sale of *Hume's Essays* had failed since my book was published; and I told him what Mr Strahan had told me in regard to that matter. He had even heard of my being in Edinburgh last summer, and how Mr. Hume was offended on the score of my book. He asked many questions about the second part of the *Essay*, and when it would be ready for the press. I gave him, in a short speech, an account of the plan of it; and said, my health was so precarious I could not tell when it would be ready, as I had many books to consult before I could finish it; but that if my health was good, I thought I might bring it to a conclusion in two or three years. He asked, how long I had been in composing my *Essay*; praised the caution with which it was written; and said he did not wonder that it had employed me five or six years. He asked about my poems. I said there was only one poem of my own, on which I set any value (meaning the *Minstrel*), and that it was first published about the same time with the *Essay*. My other poems, I said, were incorrect, being but juvenile pieces, and of little consequence, even in my own opinion. We had much conversation on moral subjects; from which both their majesties let it appear, that they were warm friends to Christianity; and so

little inclined to infidelity, that they could hardly believe that any thinking man could really be an Atheist, unless he could bring himself to believe that he made himself—a thought which pleased the king exceedingly, and he repeated it several times to the queen. He asked whether any thing had been written against me. I spoke of the late pamphlet, of which I gave an account, telling him, that I never had met with any man who had read it, except one quaker. This brought on some discourse about the quakers, whose moderation and mild behaviour the king and queen commended. I was asked many questions about the Scots universities, the revenues of the Scots clergy, their mode of praying and preaching; the medical college of Edinburgh, Dr. Gregory (of whom I gave a particular character), and Dr. Cullen; the length of our vacation at Aberdeen, and the closeness of our attendance during the winter; the number of students that attend my lectures; my mode of lecturing, whether from notes or completely written lectures: about Mr. Hume, and Dr. Robertson, and lord Kinnoul, and the archbishop of York, &c. His majesty asked what I thought of my new acquaintance, lord Dartmouth? I said there was something in his air and manner which I thought not only agreeable, but enchanting, and that he seemed to me to be one of the best of men—a sentiment in which both their majesties heartily joined. 'They say that lord Dartmouth is an enthusiast,' said the king, 'but surely he says nothing on the subject of religion, but what every Christian may, and ought to say.' He asked whether I did not think the English language on the decline at present? I answered in the affirmative; and the king agreed; and named the *Spectator* as 'one of the best standards of the language. When I told him that the Scots clergy sometimes prayed a quarter, or even half an hour

at a time, he asked whether that did not lead them into repetitions? I said it often did. 'That,' said he, 'I don't like in prayers; and excellent as our liturgy is, I think it somewhat faulty in that respect.' 'Your majesty knows,' said I, 'that three services are joined in one in the ordinary church service, which is one cause of those repetitions.' 'True,' he replied; 'and that circumstance also makes the service too long.' From this, he took occasion to speak of the composition of the church-liturgy; on which he very justly bestowed the highest commendation. 'Observe,' his majesty said, 'how flat those occasional prayers are, that are now composed, in comparison with the old ones.' When I mentioned the smallness of the church-livings in Scotland, he said, 'he wondered how men of liberal education would choose to become clergymen there,' and asked, 'whether in the remote parts of the country, the clergy in general were not very ignorant?' I answered, 'No, for that education was very cheap in Scotland, and that the clergy in general, were men of good sense and competent learning.' He asked whether we had any good preachers at Aberdeen? I said yes, and named Campbell and Gerard, with whose names, however, I did not find that he was acquainted. Dr. Majendie mentioned Dr. Oswald's 'Appeal,' with commendation; I praised it too; and the queen took down the name, with a view to send for it. I was asked, whether I knew Dr. Oswald? I answered, I did not; and said, that my book was published before I read his; that Dr. Oswald was well known to lord Kinnoul, who had often proposed to make us acquainted. We discussed a great many other topics; for the conversation, as before observed, lasted for upwards of an hour, without any intermission. The queen bore a large share in it. Both the king and her ma-

gesty showed a great deal of good sense, acuteness, and knowledge, as well as of good-nature and affability. At last, the king took out his watch, (for it was now almost three o'clock, his hour of dinner), which Dr. Majendie and I took as a signal to withdraw. We accordingly bowed to their majesties, and I addressed the king in these words :—‘I hope, Sir, your majesty will pardon me, if I take this opportunity to return you my humble and most grateful acknowledgments for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon me.’ He immediately answered, ‘I think I could do no less for a man, who has done so much service to the cause of Christianity. I shall always be glad of an opportunity to show the good opinion I have of you.’ The queen sat all the while, and the king stood, sometimes walking about a little. Her majesty speaks the English language with surprising elegance, and little or nothing of a foreign accent. There is something wonderfully captivating in her manner, so that if she were only of the rank of a private gentlewoman, one could not help taking notice of her, as one of the most agreeable women in the world. Her face is much more pleasing than any of her pictures ; and in the expression of her eyes, and in her smile, there is something peculiarly engaging.”

It was impossible, that with the king's love of exercise, his punctual attention to business, and superintendence of his children, he could add much to whatever learning he had acquired in his youth. He is said, however, to have had an admirable tact in acquiring what is called a knowledge of books, that is, in learning where to look for any knowledge of which he had immediate occasion. Had there been any ostentation or affectation in his character, the formation of a library, even that of Buckingham-house, would be no symptom of a love of letters. With his sincerity and his dislike of

extravagance, it was a strong one. A large part of the king's private income was employed in rendering that collection at once a personal luxury, and a national ornament.

His majesty always took a particular interest in the affairs of the Royal Academy, although it was a remark very common at the time, that Sir Joshua Reynolds, the president, did not appear to enjoy any high degree of the king's favour, with the exception of the knighthood. Sir Joshua was in many respects not fitted for the air of a court—there was too much of the stubbornness of the oak about him, whereas it requires the flexibility and pliancy of the poplar, in order to attain that degree of elevation which is the first and only aim of the courtier. His majesty's predilections were certainly in favour of West, but he was at that time too young an artist to fill the president's chair, although he exhibited those strong indications of genius, which afterwards rendered him so distinguished an ornament of his profession. It was notorious at the time, that the king was not pleased with the election of Sir Joshua Reynolds to the presidency, but at the same time he did not allow his prejudices to operate to the injury of the art itself. The proceeds of the exhibitions at their origin were not sufficient to meet their expenses, and his majesty most generously stepped forward to supply the deficiency from his own private purse. This promise was most strictly and punctually fulfilled by annual disbursements, to the aggregate amount of about 5,000*l*.

Although an apparent tranquillity reigned at home, yet the flames of one of the most disastrous wars which ever afflicted this country, were burning in secret. The American war commenced in 1773. This contest has been already subjected to the impartial scrutiny of history. It is evident that the war was ori-

ginally impolitic, and that it was unnecessarily prolonged. But although it has been the fashion to ascribe much of the perseverance in this calamitous contest to the personal character of the sovereign, it will be conceded that the abdication of so large a portion of his hereditary dominions, was no determination to be lightly or hastily adopted by the king of England.

From the temper of the nation and the general unanimity of parliament, the government was encouraged to assume a bold and commanding tone, with respect to the misguided and turbulent Americans. All ideas of conciliation seemed to be abandoned, and nothing but coercive measures were resolved on. This was manifested in the appointment of general Gage, to be governor of the province of Massachusetts, and his arrival was met with fearful apprehension and gloomy discontent. The resolutions that had been adopted by the British parliament, and the arrival of great numbers of troops, with the appointment of a military governor of Massachusetts, added powerful fuel to the flame that had been so long burning; and the whole extent of the colonial settlements was actuated by one principle of deadly animosity. A general congress was proposed, and fixed upon to meet at Philadelphia, being composed of delegates from the different provinces. This assembly laid the foundation of American independence, for in its origin it was clearly illegal and opposite to the obedience that was due to the crown of England; its establishment was, therefore, the evident assumption of sovereign authority. Various declarations and addresses were drawn up in the name of this assembly against the conduct of Great Britain, and in justification of their own, which gave rise to considerable political controversies at home, amongst which

the writings of Dr. Richard Price, a dissenting minister of some repute as a calculator, maintained the greatest share of celebrity. At this juncture a writer of sounder principles and more accurate knowledge than Dr. Price, entered into an examination of the dispute with the colonies, and asserted that the interest of Britain led to the total renunciation of them. Such a proposition was resisted with contempt and abhorrence by both sides. The advocates for America magnified her importance, and maintained that the very commercial and political welfare of this country depended upon holding her colonial settlements: the adherents of government defended the importance of those settlements, and urged the absolute necessity of preserving and subjugating them. Dr. Tucker, however, the learned and penetrating dean of Gloucester, proved upon commercial and political principles, that Britain would be no loser by the full independence of the colonies. But the demonstration of this plain truth was destined to be purchased at the expense of millions, and by all the horrors of a long and complicated war.

It has been often remarked, that the opinion of a monarch on the different political questions of his government, is to be ascertained by the manner in which the adherents or the opponents of those measures are received by him in public. A gracious smile, or a marked coolness and reserve, will often speak more forcibly the inward sentiments of the monarch towards an individual, than the most studied speech; and the opinion of his late majesty respecting the alienation of the colonial settlements was gathered and publicly promulgated, by the manner in which the reverend dean of Gloucester was at this time received at court.—“Tucker, Tucker,” exclaimed his majesty, when he was informed that the dean was to be presented to

him at the ensuing levee, "yes, yes, I have heard of him, he wishes to persuade the king of England to throw away one of the brightest jewels in his crown: go, go, and persuade the dean that it is for his interest to resign all the emolument of his deanery."

From this simple remark, was extracted his majesty's private opinion of the expediency or necessity of the measures which were then pursuing against the Americans: but, so little was the American war expected to assume a formidable appearance, that his majesty, at the opening of parliament in January 1774, in his speech from the throne, observes, that the state of foreign affairs then afforded full leisure for the legislature to attend to the improvement of our internal and domestic situation, and to the prosecution of such measures as more immediately respected the preservation and advancement of the revenue and commerce of the empire.

It does not, however, fall within the scope of the present work to enter into a diffuse statement of the political events which distinguished the long and momentous reign of his late majesty. The rise, progress and termination of the American war, are well known to every one in the slightest degree acquainted with the history of his country, and therefore a repetition of them in these pages can only appear as dull as "a tale twice told."

It was not generally known that his majesty at this time, took particular pleasure in visiting *incog*, the great national foundations of Greenwich and Chelsea. There, in the happy concealment of his rank, he viewed them in those colours in which they are best arrayed, and in which their beauties are best discerned. To a generous, a sympathising, and a patriotic bosom, what can be more acceptable than the spirited, though artless, tale of the worn-out sailor or

soldier, solacing the evening of his days with the story of his former adventures—his well-fought battles—his hard-earned victories—his hair-breadth escapes—the heroes under whom he served—the enemies whom he conquered. His majesty's heart glowed with delight on these occasions. He never disdained to be sometimes seen in these retreats of the aged—the infirm, the mutilated, valiant men, who had contributed whilst they were able, to the support and the renown of his kingdom—whose best blood, and whose best services, had been devoted to his country. A thinking man, and who will deny that character to his late majesty, will certainly find in these famed repositories of British warriors, a fund of reflections that must awaken every sentiment of patriotism, as well as of humanity.

His majesty, in one of his visits to Chelsea, once fell into conversation with a veteran, who had only one leg; and on inquiring at what battle he lost his leg, his majesty was answered "At the battle of Dettingen, Sir; *we* fought well on that day." "Did you see the late king in the battle," asked his majesty. "I believe," said the soldier, "every man in the army saw him, for he was every where—but it was a glorious day—and as the late king had one leg, the present one shall have the other, whenever he calls upon me." His majesty was so pleased with this instance of loyalty in the soldier, that he made him a handsome present, and he never afterwards visited Chelsea without inquiring for the "loyal soldier."

The king at this period was remarkable for rising early, generally before six, and his arrangements were formed in such a manner, that he could call the two succeeding hours his own. The following, was nearly the regular distribution of the day. At eight, the prince of Wales, the bishop of Osnaburgh, the princess

royal, and princes William and Henry, were brought from their several houses, to Kew-house to breakfast with their illustrious relations. At nine, their younger children attended to lisp or smile their good-morrows, and while the five eldest were closely applying to their tasks, the little ones and their nurses passed the whole morning in Richmond Gardens.

The king and queen frequently amused themselves with sitting in the room while the children dined, and once a-week, attended by the whole offspring in pairs, made the little delightful tour of Richmond Gardens. In the afternoon the queen worked, and the king read to her; and, whatever charms ambition or folly may conceive as attendant on so exalted a situation, it is neither on the throne, nor in the drawing-room, in the splendor nor the toys of sovereignty, that they place their felicity; it is, next to the fulfilling of the duties of their station, in social and domestic gratifications, in breathing the free air, admiring the works of nature, tasting and encouraging the elegancies of art, and in living to their own hearts. In the evening all the children again paid their duty at Kew-house, before they retired to bed; and the same order was observed through each returning day. The sovereign was the father of his family; not a grievance reached his knowledge that remained unredressed; nor was a single character of merit or ingenuity ever disregarded; so that his private conduct must be allowed to have been no less exemplary than it was truly amiable.

Though naturally a lover of peace, his personal courage cannot in the smallest degree be impeached; he exercised his troops himself, understood every martial manœuvre as well as any private sentinel in his service, and had the articles of war at his fingers' ends. Topography was one of his favourite studies; he copied

every capital chart, took the models of all the celebrated fortifications, knew the soundings of the chief harbours in Europe, and the strong and weak sides of most fortified towns. He could name every ship in his navy, and kept lists of the commanders. And all these were private acquisitions, and of his own choosing.

The prince of Wales and the bishop of Osnaburgh bade fair, however, for excelling the generality of mankind in learning, as much as they were their superiors in rank: eight hours close application to the languages and the liberal sciences was daily enjoined them, and their industry was unremitting: they were all indeed fine children, and it does not then appear that parental partiality was known at court.

Exercise, air, and light diet, were the grand fundamental in the king's idea of health and sprightliness; his majesty fed chiefly on vegetables, and drank little wine; the queen was what many private gentlewomen would call whimsically abstemious, for at a table covered with dainties, she culled the plainest and the simplest dish, and seldom eat of more than two things at a meal. Her wardrobe was changed every three months; and, while the nobility were eager to supply themselves with foreign trifles, her care was that nothing but what was English should be provided for her wear. The tradesmen's bills were regularly paid once a quarter for the expenses of the children's department, and the whole was judiciously and happily conducted.

In the household, regularity was indeed said to amount to abstemiousness, but on this subject a thousand stories were circulated, though all really unfounded. The only real subject of complaint was on the part of the maids of honour, who remonstrated against the disuse of suppers; and, although the king would not

break through his previous arrangements, yet he settled the business at once, by ordering an additional allowance of 70*l.* per annum in lieu.

The malevolence of party at this moment did great injustice to the king's character, both private and public. Many of the leading demagogues, were men of most immoral conduct, and were either blind to, or felt themselves ashamed by the domestic virtues of their monarch, who, in spite of unmerited calumny, still shewed himself animated by the noblest intentions, and by the warmest affection for his people. But it was then the fashion of the day to represent him as despotic, inflexible, vindictive, and anxious to domineer both at home and in the colonies, by measures the most tyrannical and unconstitutional. His love of economy was called avarice—his attachment to retirement was denominated as rather seclusion—his pleasures were misrepresented—his taste satirized, and even his harmless recreations held up to public ridicule—his religious principles were exposed to derision—and there was not a single shade in his character which was not magnified into some moral delinquency. His fondness for gardening was seized upon by our English poet Mason, as the text for a satire upon Chambers's *Oriental Gardening*; and perhaps against the poet's wish, the ridicule intended for Chambers was thrown upon the monarch.

The year 1775 was remarkable for a dispute, and not a very courteous one, which was carried on between his majesty and the city of London, concerning the mode and manner of presenting addresses. The sheriffs attended at court, at St. James's, in obedience to the king's appointment notified to them at Kew; and Mr. Sheriff Plomer, addressing the king, said, "May it please your majesty, we are ordered by the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of London, in

common-hall assembled, to wait upon your majesty, humbly to know your majesty's royal will and pleasure, when your majesty will be pleased to receive upon the throne, their humble address, remonstrance, and petition." To this the king replied, "You will be pleased to take notice, that I will receive their address, remonstrance, and petition, on Friday next, at the levee." Mr. Sheriff Plomer then said, "Your majesty will permit us to inform you, that the livery, in common-hall assembled, have resolved not to present their address, remonstrance, and petition, unless your majesty shall be pleased to receive it sitting on the throne." The king answered with great mildness, but with a high degree of dignity, "I am ever ready to receive addresses and petitions; but I am the judge where."

In consequence of this reply, the livery met at Guildhall, when the lord mayor read the report of the sheriffs, and added, "As his majesty did not think fit to receive the address on the throne, he (the mayor) considered it to be his duty not to go up with it, and submitted the further proceedings to the consideration of the livery. As it might be expected, a warm altercation took place: some saw in this proceeding of the common-hall only an attempt to annoy and wound the feelings of his majesty, whilst others were most vociferous in what they were pleased to call it, a defence of their rights. One member descanted on the unanimity, spirit, and perseverance which at that most critical time, ought to influence the livery, as the only and effectual mode of obtaining, what they called, redress." This same person then read some resolutions, which were approved and ordered to be presented to the king; but in the mean time, the common-hall, or some officious person for them, caused the withdrawn address to be printed, in which were some forcible

denunciations against the American war, strong accusations of despotism, some most extraordinary reasoning about arbitrary power, the unalterable rights of human nature, invasion of American rights, justification of American resistance, and the most violent threats against ministers, with now and then a sly blow at his majesty. The cabinet, however, was particularly vilified, even to that extent, that it was charged with having given its sanction to popery.

The sheriffs went again to St. James's, when Mr. Sheriff Plomer a second time informed his majesty that they were ordered to present him with some resolutions entered into by the common-hall; in which, after claiming the right of petition, not as a matter of grace and favour, the livery very roundly asserted, "That the king's previous answer was a direct denial of the right of the court to have their petitions heard."

In this there was evidently a complete juggle, which was not distinctly perceived by even some of the supporters of the measures. That the subjects have a right to petition, is a clear constitutional question, which has been long decided; but the citizens of London go further and say, that "The king is bound to *hear* the petitions of his people." Now, if by the word *hear*, is generally meant that the people have the right to petition, it matters very little whether the petition be spoken to the king or presented to him in writing, but the common-hall claimed a right of having their petitions read to the king upon the throne, whereas at the levee they would be only presented, as is the case with all other petitions, generally speaking; from whence it follows, that if the London resolution be literally correct, every corporation has the right of reading their petitions to the king, or else the common-hall claimed a right beyond the general right of the constitution. It is allowed that

particular privileges, as far as regards the presenting of petitions to the king, belong to the city of London and to the universities; and it having been the custom of the corporation to present petitions to the throne, it appeared therefore, to many, that the offer of his majesty to receive the petition at the levee, fully justified the resolution, that the answer was a denial, and that such denial renders the right of petitioning the throne, recognized and established by the revolution, of no effect.

The king returned no answer to the resolutions; but a few days afterwards, to an address from the common-council, he answered, "That he was always ready to listen to the dutiful petitions of his subjects, and ever happy to comply with their reasonable requests; but while the constitutional authority of Britain was openly resisted by a part of his American subjects, he owed it to the rest of his people, of whose zeal and fidelity he had such constant proofs, to continue and enforce the policy then pursued."

The corporation of London, not much to their credit, appeared, at this time, to seize every opportunity of addressing the king, and sometimes on those pretences which could not but be called frivolous. They conceived that the quarrel with the American colonies arose entirely from some aggressive acts on the part of the mother country; and therefore it was a fit occasion, according to their conception, of addressing the king, praying that he would be pleased to cause hostilities to cease between Great Britain and America, and to adopt such measures as would restore union, confidence, and peace over the British empire. Some considerable debate arose before this measure was carried; but at length it was respectfully presented, most graciously received, and answered, but certainly with a degree of forcible reason-

ing, which ought to have been a complete reply to all the public clamour of the time.

A very singular occurrence took place at this time, which excited the particular attention of the country, *viz.*, the arrest of Stephen Sayre, esq., on a charge of high treason, preferred against him by adjutant Richardson, of the guards. The warrant was signed by lord Rochford, and the charge contained in it was to the following purport :—" That Stephen Sayre, esq. had expressed to him, the said Richardson, an intention of seizing the king's person, on his majesty's proceeding to the parliament-house, and also of an intention of seizing the tower, and overturning the present government."

An examination of this extraordinary charge was immediately gone into, and it ended in Mr. Sayre's commitment to close custody in the Tower. A few days after, however, a writ of Habeas Corpus was obtained, and Mr Sayre was admitted to bail. The charge was consequently found to be without foundation, and Mr. Sayre obtained a verdict of 1000*l.* for false imprisonment.

Various were the opinions on this subject. Whilst some regarded it as a mere absurdity, others conceived they could discover in it some close connexion with the American war, and Mr. Sayre being himself an American, it gave, in some degree, a colour of truth to the latter case. The most respectable journals of that time, do not, however, hesitate to declare, that some conspiracy was then on foot, to convey the person of the king out of the country, but that the seizure of Mr. Sayre put a stop to the conspiracy, before it was properly matured.

Another very serious accident had nearly occurred to his majesty at this time; on travelling from Cliefden to town, when he was attended by only two grooms and a helper. On

passing over Hounslow-heath, he was stopped by a single highwayman, who rode up boldly to the window of the chariot, but was prevented attacking his majesty by one of the servants riding suddenly in between him and the highwayman, who then drew back, and attempted the other side, but was again intercepted by the other servant; upon which he gave them a hearty curse, said their master was in a d—d hurry, and rode off.

It has been stated in a former part of this history, that his majesty took particular interest in the fate of his unfortunate sister, the queen of Denmark. It was enough to know her unfortunate, to excite the sympathy of his majesty, and her character was in itself so pure, and spotless, that when the intelligence of her death was conveyed to his majesty, he exclaimed, " The world is the poorer of a virtuous woman." We cannot do better justice to her memory than to give the following description of her character, which ought to be held forth as an example to every female, whether of an exalted or an inferior station.

She conversed with the most perfect facility, in French, English, German, and Danish; and to those extraordinary attainments she added a thorough knowledge of the Italian, which she studied and admired for its beauty and delicacy. Her manners were the most polished, soft, and ingratiating; and even the contracted state of her finances could not restrain that princely munificence of temper, which made her purse ever open to distress or misery. Naturally cheerful and happy in her disposition, adored and beloved to the highest degree by the circle of her court, even the dark cloud of adversity could not alter the sweetness and serenity of her temper. Banished, with every circumstance of indignity from the throne of Denmark, she yet retained no sentiment of re-

venge or resentment against the authors of her fall, or against the Danish people. Her heart was not tinctured with ambition, and she looked back to the diadem which had been torn from her brow, with a calmness and superiority of soul, which might have made a Philip the Fifth, or a Victor Amadeus, blush. It was not the crown she regretted; her children only employed her care; the feelings of the sovereign were absorbed in those of the mother; and, if she wept the day when she quitted the island of Zealand, it was because she was then bereft of those dear objects of her maternal fondness. Two or three months before her death, she shewed, with transports of joy, to madam d'O——, her first lady of the bedchamber, a little portrait of the prince royal, her son, which she had just received. It happened that this lady some few days after, entered the queen's apartment at an unusual hour. She was surprized at hearing her majesty talk, though quite alone. While she stood in this attitude of astonishment, unable to retire, the queen turned suddenly round, and addressing herself to her, with that charming smile which she alone could preserve at a moment when her heart was torn with the most acute and agonizing sensations,—“What must you think,” said she, “of a circumstance so extraordinary as that of hearing me talk, though you find me perfectly alone? But it was to this dear and cherished image I addressed my conversation; and what do you imagine I said to it? nearly the same verses which you sent not long ago to a child, sensible to the happiness of having found her father; verses (added she) which I changed after the manner following:

Eh ! qui donc, comme moi, goûteroit la douceur
De t'appeller mon fils, d'être chère à ton cœur !
Toi qu'on arrache aux bras d'une mère sensible,
Qui ne pleure que toi, dans ce destin terrible.

TRANSLATION.

Ah ! who, like me, could taste the joy divine,
My lovely babe ! to mix my soul with thine !
Torn from my breast, I weep alone for thee,
Amidst the griefs which heaven dispens'd to me.

Madam d'O—— could not speak; she burst into tears, and, overcome with her own emotion, retired hastily from the royal presence.

When she was first apprehended to be in danger from the disorder which seized her, anxiety and consternation were spread through her whole court, which idolized her; but when she expired, no language can express the horror and grief visible in every apartment of the palace. Leyser, the physician, who attended her majesty through the course of her illness, dreaded the event from the first moment. She saw it, and, impressed with a presentiment of her approaching death, which proved but too true, “You have twice,” said she to him, “extricated me from very dangerous indispositions since the month of October, but this exceeds your skill: I know I am not within the help of medicine.” Leyser desired that the celebrated Zimmermann might be called in to his aid from Hanover: he was so; but her majesty's illness, which was a most malignant spotted fever, baffled every endeavour. Its violence, even in the beginning was such, that her pulse beat an hundred and thirty-one strokes in a minute; but during the last two days, it became impossible to count them. She bore the pains of her distemper with exquisite patience, and even shewed the most generous and delicate attention to the ladies who waited by her. She preserved her senses, speech, and understanding to the last moment, and only a short time before her death (the 10th of May, 1775,) expressed the most perfect forgiveness of all those enemies who had persecuted and calumniated her during her life. Monsieur de Lich-

tenstein, grand mareschal of Hanover, presided at the funeral rites, which were conducted with a pomp suited to her royal dignity. Her majesty's body was interred with her maternal ancestors, the dukes of Zell. The streets and the great church were thronged with crowds of people, drawn by the sincerest grief of condolence, to behold the mournful obsequies of their royal benefactress pass along. It was a scene the most affecting and awful to be imagined; and when the funeral sermon was preached over her remains, the numerous audience melted into tears, and were impressed with emotions of sorrow and lamentation, only to be compared with those which the famous Bourdaloue excited by his oration on a similar occasion, the death of Henrietta, duchess of Orleans, in the last century. But the most striking proof of the love and attachment borne to her majesty's memory after death, and the impression which her virtues had made among all ranks of people in the country where she died, is the resolution which the states of Lunenburg framed at Hanover shortly after her death. It was as follows:

"The nobility and the states of the duchy of Lunenburg assembled, have resolved in their last session, to present a request to the king of Great Britain, to obtain the permission of erecting at Zell a monument, in memory of the qualities of mind and heart of the late queen of Denmark, as well as of the veneration which they have borne to that princess. They intend choosing the most exquisite artists for the execution of it; and, they hope, by his avowed proof of their zeal, to transmit, to the most remote posterity, both the profound grief, which the premature death of that young queen has spread through a whole province which adored her, and the homage which they rendered to that true greatness, which catas-

trophes and adversities the most cruel, only render more respectable."

The state of the political world in regard to America, was now of that alarming nature, that his majesty found it necessary to assemble parliament at an earlier period than usual, when he delivered the following speech from the throne:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The present situation of America and my constant desire to have your advice, concurrence, and assistance on every important occasion, have determined me to call you thus early together.

Those who have long too successfully laboured to inflame my people in America by gross misrepresentations, and to infuse into their minds a system of opinions repugnant to the true constitution of the colonies, and to their subordinate relation to Great Britain, now openly avow their revolt, hostility, and rebellion. They have raised troops, and are collecting a naval force: they have seized the public revenue, and assumed to themselves legislative, executive, and judicial powers, which they already exercise, in the most arbitrary manner, over the persons and properties of their fellow-subjects: And although many of these unhappy people may still retain their loyalty, and may be too wise not to see the fatal consequence of this usurpation, and wish to resist it, yet the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence, till a sufficient force shall appear to support them.

The authors and promoters of this desperate conspiracy have, in the conduct of it, derived great advantage from the difference of our intentions and theirs. They meant only to amuse by vague expressions of attachment to the parent state, and the strongest protestations of loyalty to me, whilst they were preparing for a general revolt. On our part, though it was declared in your last session that a rebellion existed within the province of the Massachusset's bay; yet even that province we wished rather to reclaim than subdue. The resolutions of parliament breathed a spirit of moderation and forbearance; conciliatory propositions accompanied the measures taken to enforce authority; and the coercive acts were adapted to cases of criminal combinations amongst subjects not then in arms. I have acted with the same

temper; anxious to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war; still hoping that my people in America would have discerned the traitorous views of their leaders, and have been convinced that to be a subject of Great Britain, with all its consequences, is to be the freest member of any civil society in the known world.

The rebellious war now levied is become more general, and is manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire. I need not dwell upon the fatal effects of the success of such a plan. The object is too important, the spirit of the British nation too high, the resources with which God hath blessed her too numerous, to give up so many colonies which she has planted with great industry, nursed with great tenderness, encouraged with so many commercial advantages, and protected and defended at much expense of blood and treasure.

It is now become the part of wisdom, and (in its effects) of clemency, to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions. For this purpose, I have increased my naval establishment, and greatly augmented my land forces; but in such a manner as may be the least burthensome to my kingdoms.

I have also the satisfaction to inform you, that I have received the most friendly offers of foreign assistance; and, if I shall make any treaties in consequence thereof, they shall be laid before you. And, I have in testimony of my affection for my people, who can have no cause in which I am not equally interested, sent to the garrisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, a part of my electoral troops, in order, that a larger number of the established forces of this kingdom may be applied to the maintenance of its authority; and, the national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the rights, safety, and protection of my crown and people, may give a farther extent and activity to our military operations.

When the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, I shall be ready to receive the misled with tenderness and mercy: and, in order to prevent the inconveniencies which may arise from the great distance of their situation, and to remove as soon as possible the calamities which they suffer, I shall give authority to certain persons upon the spot to grant general or particular

pardons and indemnities, in such manner, and to such persons as they shall think fit, and to receive the submission of any province or colony which shall be disposed to return to its allegiance. It may be also proper to authorize the persons so commissioned to restore such province or colony, so returning to its allegiance, to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and the same protection and security as if such province or colony had never revolted.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; and I rely on your affection to me, and your resolution to maintain the just rights of this country, for such supplies as the present circumstances of our affairs require. Among the many unavoidable ill consequences of this rebellion, none affects me more sensibly than the extraordinary burthen which it must create to my faithful subjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have fully opened to you my views and intentions. The constant employment of my thoughts, and the most earnest wishes of my heart, tend wholly to the safety and happiness of all my people, and to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity through the several parts of my dominions, in a close connexion and constitutional dependence. You see the tendency of the present disorders, and I have stated to you the measures which I mean to pursue for suppressing them. Whatever remains to be done that may farther contribute to this end, I commit to your wisdom. And, I am happy to add, that, as well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, I see no probability that the measures which you may adopt will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power.

In consequence of this speech, the disputes in parliament ran exceedingly high, and even the members of the royal family were divided upon the expediency of the American war. When the duke of Cumberland was told by a ministerial earl, that his majesty hoped he would support the measures of his government, "God forbid," said his royal highness, "that a prince of the house of Hanover should violate

those rights in America, which they were raised to the throne of England for asserting," and his royal highness voted with lord Chatham, and twenty-nine other peers, in favour of that nobleman's plan of reconciliation.

The sale of Dr. Askew's library, which took place at this time, enables us to furnish another instance of the strength of his majesty's memory; he was not a great reader, but what he read he remembered tenaciously. In his historic recollections, he shewed himself always particularly prompt and accurate. A curious proof of this is extant, in the fine copy of the second folio edition of Shakespeare's works, which is in the royal library, and which originally belonged to Charles the First.—The book was purchased by Dr. Askew, at Dr. Mead's sale, for two guineas and a half; and, at the death of Dr. Mead, Mr. Stevens became the purchaser of it for 5*l.* 10*s.* In a leaf of this book, Charles the First had written with his own hand, *Dum Spiro Spero*. C. R. And sir Henry Herbert, to whom the king presented it the night before his execution, has also written, *Ex dono Serenissimi Regis Car. Servo suo Humiliss. T. Herbert.* Mr. Stevens has added, "Sir Thomas Herbert was master of the revels to King Charles the First." The book being subsequently purchased for the king's library, at eighteen guineas, his majesty on inspecting it immediately observed, that there was an error in this last note of Mr. Stevens; and, taking a pen, he wrote beneath it these words: "This is a mistake; (Sir Thomas Herbert) having been groom of the bed-chamber to King Charles; but Sir Henry Herbert was master of the revels."

The retentiveness of the king's memory, even in trifling matters, was remarkable and extraordinary, as the most minute circumstances seldom failed to be remembered with the

utmost correctness, as the following instances sufficiently show. On repainting, improving, and cleaning the pictures, in one of the rooms in Windsor-castle, on beginning to take one down which had been placed in a particular situation more than twenty years before, his majesty observed, that it was torn in the canvas behind, which on getting it down, was found to be really the case. And, on the occasion of his majesty's presenting his relation, the great military character, the late duke of Brunswick, with an elegant English carriage, in the pannels of which the duke's arms and bearing were painted, and finished in a superb and unusual style of execution; his majesty on calling to see it before it was sent away, had just a slight glimpse of the person who executed the nice parts of the business, who happening to be employed in some similar kinds of work at Windsor many years after, was perfectly recognised and recollected.

It was in the year 1775, that his majesty being desirous of settling Buckingham-house on the queen, sent the following message to parliament.

"His majesty, desirous that a better, and more suitable accommodation should be made for the residence of the queen, in case she should survive him; and being willing that the palace in which his majesty now resides, called the queen's-house, may be settled for that purpose, recommends (to both houses of parliament) to take the same into consideration, and to make provision for settling the said palace upon her majesty, and for appropriating Somerset-house to such uses as shall be found most beneficial to the public."

Addresses, upon this, were immediately moved for, to thank his majesty for his most gracious message, and to assure him that the contents should be taken into consideration.

The house of commons shortly after took into consideration his majesty's message, relative to the settling of Buckingham-house on her majesty, in lieu of Somerset-house, when they came to several resolutions, which were afterwards reported, and are in substance as follows :

"That it is the opinion of the committee, that the palace lately known by the name of Buckingham-house, and now called the queen's-house, be settled on the queen, in lieu of Somerset-house, in case she shall survive his majesty.

"That, from and after the determination of such settlement, the said palace be annexed to and vested in the crown of Great Britain.

"That the palace of Somerset-house, which, by an act made in the second year of his present majesty's reign, was settled upon the queen, be vested in his majesty, his heirs, and successors, for the purpose of erecting and establishing certain public offices."

Towards the close of the year, his majesty granted to the master, governors, and assistants of the Scottish Hospital of the foundation of King Charles II. his licence to erect an hospital in some convenient place within London or Westminster, or the liberties thereof, in future to be called, The Scottish Hospital of the foundation of King Charles II., and to ordain, that the said corporation shall hereafter have one president, six vice-presidents, and one treasurer, (to be annually elected) and such a number of governors as shall pay, and continue to pay, such annual sum or sums as, under a bye law of the said corporation, shall be declared duly qualified, and be appointed to that office. And shortly afterwards he was pleased to incorporate the governor, deputy governor, and many other persons mentioned in the charter, into one body politic and corporate, by

the name of "The Commissioners and Governors of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, in the county of Kent," who shall be governors of the goods, revenues, rents, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, already given, granted, appropriated, or belonging, or which shall hereafter be given, granted, appropriated, or belonging unto the said hospital; and by the same name, they and their successors shall have perpetual succession."

On the 1st January 1776, a numerous court was held at St. James's to compliment their majesties and the rest of the royal family upon the occasion : at noon, the following ode was performed in the great council-chamber.

On the white rocks which guard her coast,
Observant of the parting day,
Whose orb was half in ocean lost,
Reclin'd Britannia lay.

Wide o'er the wat'ry waste
A pensive look she cast ;
And scarce could check the rising sigh,
And scarce could stop the tear which trembled in her eye.
"Sheath, sheath the sword which thirsts for blood,
(She cried) deceived, mistaken men !
Nor let your parent, o'er the flood,
Send forth her voice in vain !

Alas, no tyrant she—
She courts you to be free :
Submissive hear her soft command,
Nor force unwilling vengeance from a parent's hand."
Hear her, ye wise, to duty true,
And teach the rest to feel ;
Nor let the madness of a few
Distress the public weal !
So shall the opening year assume,
Time's fairest child, a happier bloom ;
The white-wing'd hours shall lightly move,
The sun which added lustre shine ;
"To err is human."—Let us prove
"Forgiveness is divine !"

After which, forty boys from Christ's hospital were presented to their majesties. The

drawing-room did not break up till after five o'clock. Their majesties returned with all the princes and princesses to the Queen's-House to dinner, a little before six.

Her majesty's birth-day was celebrated on the 18th, in the most splendid manner. At this period some very great defalcations had been discovered in the expenditure of the household, which his majesty attributed to some dishonest persons who were then in his service. At the ball which was held on the evening of her majesty's birth-day, the earl of Mexborough had a most magnificent diamond order, of immense value, cut from his ribbon, in the presence-chamber; the circumstance having been related to the king, he exclaimed, "What! what! thieves at court—thieves at court—I thought they were only to be found in my household."

During the evening his majesty was observed to pay unusual attention to the ladies' dresses, some of which were of the most grotesque kind. He could scarcely look upon the head-dress of lady Gideon without a smile; the lower part of her hair was like a man's wig, and the upper part terminated in a lofty peak, like a grenadier's cap, with a bouquet on the top of all; whilst by way of contrast, the heads of lady Archer and Miss West were expanded like an open fan. This grotesque mode of dress gave rise to the saying of his majesty, "That Heaven made angels of the English women, but fashion converted them into monsters." The most striking contrast on this evening was, however, the simplicity and neatness of the dress of two daughters of Mr. Barclay, being quakers, compared with the gaudy and ornamental habiliments of the nobility. His majesty paid particular attention to those two ladies, and conversed with them for some time in the most affable manner.

In the year 1776, the public attention was directed towards an invention for the security of buildings against fire, made by a Mr. Hartly. This gentleman had a house on Wimbledon-Common, where he exhibited experiments illustrative of his plan, and was one day honoured with a visit from royalty, to witness them. The king and queen, with the prince of Wales, the bishop of Osnaburgh, the princess royal, and the princess Augusta, attended by lady Charlotte Finch, general Desaguliers, and colonel Hotham, formed this august party. Their majesties, with the princes and princesses, first breakfasted in one of the rooms; the tea-kettle was boiled upon a fire made upon the floor of the opposite room, which apartment they afterwards entered, and saw a bed set on fire, the curtains of which were consumed with part of the bedstead, but not the whole of it, as the flames from the resistance of the floor went out of themselves. Their majesties then went down stairs, and saw a horse-shoe forged in a fire made upon the floor, as also a large faggot lighted, that was hung up to the ceiling instead of a curtain; after this, two fires were made upon the stair-case, and one under the stairs, all of which burnt out quietly, without spreading beyond the place where the fuel was first laid. Their majesties paid the greatest attention to every experiment that was made, and expressed the utmost satisfaction at the discovery. The whole concluded by lighting a large magazine of faggots, pitch, and tar; it burnt with amazing fury, but did no damage to the floor or ceiling. Their majesties and children displayed the utmost courage and composure on going up stairs, and remaining in the room immediately over that which was raging in flames beneath.

The king was always partial to mechanical exhibitions, and he no sooner heard of the *Spec-*

tacle Mechanique of Mons. Droz, which was then exhibiting in King-street, Covent-garden, than he visited it, accompanied by the queen, and some of the elder branches of the royal family. His majesty amused himself for a considerable time, by endeavouring to discover, but without effect, the principle on which a small figure was enabled to write whatever was dictated to it. Another figure drew the portraits of their majesties in a most masterly manner, which they did Mons. Droz the honour of accepting. His majesty remained in the room above two hours, and at his departure he was pleased to express his particular approbation of the various pieces of mechanism invented by the ingenious artist.

It was in this year that America threw off its allegiance, having first issued a declaration, in which some plausible reasons were assigned for withdrawing that allegiance from the king of Great Britain. The manner in which this declaration was worded gave great offence, and not without a great degree of justice, for all constitutional language was discarded, and the most unqualified abuse was directed to the throne itself. Neither a British parliament, nor a British ministry, but a British king was complained of; it was royalty itself against which every attack was directed, and which tended in a great degree to unite the people of England in the struggle with the colonies; for, although a system of conciliation was strongly recommended by some of the first politicians of the day, yet few or none supported the Americans in their attempts for independence. His majesty was particularly desirous to save the shedding of blood, for he said, he could not look upon the Americans but as members of his great family; it was not a war of foreign nations, for acts of violence or aggression upon each other, but it was brother fighting

against brother, and therefore to be doubly deplored.

When Lord George Germaine waited on the king with despatches from general Howe, containing an account of the action on Long Island in 1776, his majesty when he had read the list of the provincials who had been killed and wounded, was much affected, and said, "Since the future consequences of the American rebellion, if we may judge from this fatal event, are likely to be still more bloody and tragical, may my deluded subjects on the other side of the Atlantic behold their impending destruction with half the horror that I feel on the occasion, then I think I should hear of their throwing off the yoke of republicanism, and like loyal subjects, returning to that duty they owe to an indulgent sovereign."

At this period a number of foreign troops were employed in our service, and an address was presented to his majesty by the house of commons, relative to clothing all the troops in British pay with British manufactures. To this address his majesty most graciously replied, that being always desirous to give every encouragement in his power to the manufactures of Great Britain, he would use his endeavours as recommended by the address.

A question of such vital importance to the interests of the country as the loss of the American colonies, was naturally calculated to raise some of the factious spirits of the country, and his majesty was consequently exposed to all the clamour of popular discontent. Placards of the most dangerous tendency were openly exposed in the streets, and, as the members proceeded to the house of commons, they were often thrown into their carriages, the following is one of them, although of a very moderate and conciliatory nature:

TO THE PARLIAMENT.

A suffering and afflicted people most humbly and solemnly beseech and implore every member of parliament to put a speedy stop to the further effusion of the blood of our American brethren; that peace and tranquillity may be restored to the royal breast, and glory, commerce, and felicity to the whole empire.

On Thursday, April 25, 1776, her majesty was safely delivered of a princess, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, several lords of his majesty's most honourable privy-council, and the ladies of her majesty bed-chamber being present, the baptism of the princess by the name of Mary, was soon afterwards performed by the archbishop of Canterbury.

It is possible that the late firm and dignified conduct of his majesty, in his severe rebuke to the city deputations in offering their addresses, might have taught them a little propriety in the wording of their addresses, or they might have learnt that a monarch is not to be dictated to, how, nor in what manner, he will receive the remonstrances and the petitions of his subjects; for, on comparing the address which was delivered to his majesty on the birth of the princess Mary, with those which had been presented but a short time before, the tone and sentiments carry with them such a marked difference, that they could scarcely be supposed to emanate from the same body of men. In the address above alluded to, the city of London begs leave to assure his majesty, that there were not in all his dominions, any subjects more faithful or more ready to maintain the true honour and dignity of the crown; that they would continue to rejoice in every event which might add to his majesty's domestic felicity, expressing at the same time a hope that every branch of the house of Brunswick would add further security to those sacred laws and liberties,

which their ancestors would not suffer to be violated with impunity, and which in consequence of the glorious and necessary revolution that house was called upon to defend.

To this address his majesty answered, that he thanked them for their further expression of duty; adding, the security of the laws and liberties of my people has always been and ever shall be the chief object of my care and attention.

His majesty had always taken a great interest in the adventurous voyages of Captain Cook, and, it may with justice be affirmed, that it was owing to the high degree of patronage which his majesty bestowed upon Captain Cook and other celebrated circumnavigators, that those most interesting voyages were undertaken, by which, a correct knowledge was obtained of the hitherto unexplored islands of the Pacific Ocean, and which has been so essentially useful to the commercial interests of the nation. It had long been a problem with geographers and scientific men, whether a north-west passage existed from the Pacific into the North Sea, and his majesty determined to set on foot an expedition for the solution of the problem. This intention of his majesty was no sooner intimated to the Admiralty, than their choice of the individual most proper for such an undertaking fell upon Captain Cook, but so great was the delicacy of his majesty towards that celebrated circumnavigator, that he would not permit the Admiralty to ask him to undertake the command. The intended expedition was, however, no sooner made known to Captain Cook, than he offered without the slightest hesitation to comply with his majesty's wishes, and his offer was accepted by the king in the most gracious manner. The result of this expedition is well known, as its renowned captain fell a sacrifice to the fury of the Sandwich islanders, and all that remained for his majesty to

perform was, to provide for his widow and sons, which was done in the most liberal manner.

His majesty's birthday was this year celebrated with uncommon splendor. In the morning the following ode was performed before their majesties, and in the evening a splendid ball was given at St. James's, which was attended by their majesties, and the elder branches of the family.

Ye Western gales, whose genial breath
Unbinds the glebe, till all beneath
One verdant livery wears,
You sooth the sultry heats of noon,
Add softness to the setting sun,
And dry the morning's tears.
This is your season, lovely gales,
Thro' æther now your power prevails;
And our dilated breasts shall own
The joys which flow from you alone.
Why, therefore, in yon dubious sky,
With outspread wing, and eager eye
On distant scenes intent,
"Sits Expectation in the air?"—
Why do alternate hope and fear
Suspend some great event?
Can Britain fail?—The thought were vain!
The powerful empress of the main
But strives to smooth the unruly flood,
And dreads a conquest stain'd with blood.
While yet, ye winds, your breezy balm
Thro' Nature spreads a general calm,
While yet a pause fell Discord knows,
Catch the soft moment of repose,
Your genuine powers exert;
To pity melt th' obdurate mind,
Teach every bosom to be kind,
And humanize the heart!
Propitious gales, O wing your way!
And whilst we hail that rightful sway
Whence temper'd Freedom springs,
The bliss we feel to future times
Extend, and from your native climes
Bring peace upon your wings!—

A complete change took place this year in

the household of the prince, by the retirement of lord Bruce from the office of governor, in which he was succeeded by the duke of Montague; soon after which, the preceptorship was resigned by Dr. Markham, who was promoted to the see of York, he was succeeded by Dr. Hurd. At the same time, Dr. Cyril Jackson resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. Arnold, tutor of St. John's Cambridge. The latter was a most amiable man, but his mind was too delicate for the close study to which he addicted himself, and he died insane in 1802. During his malady, his majesty behaved towards him with the greatest kindness and attention, and although he was unable to perform the duties of his office, yet his majesty ordered that his salary should be regularly paid him.

His majesty always testified particular pleasure in the advancement of clerical merit, and towards the close of this year, he exhibited a proof of it in the patronage which he bestowed upon the venerable Dr. Porteus. In the year 1769, he was appointed royal chaplain, which office he continued to hold until December 1776, when he was promoted to the see of Chester. His biographer mentions, that this preferment was entirely unsolicited on his part, and wholly unexpected.

The curiosity which always distinguished his majesty for seeing every thing that was remarkable, and for investigating the particular manner of its construction, was almost proverbial. It was also a well-known trait in his character, that he loved to converse with those people who were particularly remarkable for their peculiarities; and the extreme difference between his own rank and that of those whom he sometimes patronized, exposed him very often to the most ill-natured ridicule.

This trait in his majesty's character was ably

ridiculed in the following *jeu d'esprit*, which appeared in the St. James's Chronicle, dated from the queen's palace, and which is attributed to the witty George Steevens:

"Sir—Politicians from this place inform us that a new favourite has lately engrossed the king's attention, who bids fair to supplant the celebrated Pinchy and the facetious Grimaldi in the royal favours. It is no less a person than the old deaf Moravian, James Hutton, who was formerly a bookseller, and lived near Temple-bar, famous for his refusing to sell Tom Browne's Works, and Clarke on the Trinity. A certain lady who called at his shop for this last book, was induced by curiosity to know the bookseller's reasons for his refusal; but whether he made a convert of the lady, or the lady of him, history is silent. Since that time he has travelled all over Germany and Switzerland, to spread the Moravian doctrine, and make proselytes to count Zinzendorf's creed. Whether his majesty intends to raise Moravian regiments by Hutton's means among the faithful, to propagate the ministerial doctrine of unconditional submission in America, I know not; but this I am sure of, that a conversation between the king and Hutton must be exceedingly entertaining: Hutton is so deaf that a speaking-trumpet will scarce make him hear; and the king talks so fast that an ordinary converser cannot possibly keep pace with him. Hutton's asthma makes him subject to frequent pauses and interruptions; so that two interpreters will be necessary to explain matters between the king and his new favourite. I hope Hutton and the Scotch junto are upon good terms, else he will soon be obliged to discontinue his visits at Buckingham-House. After all, Hutton is an honest, humane, and sensible man, and worthy a king's regard; and however bigotted he was formerly, and

averse to selling the works of Samuel Clarke, I am told one of his favourite authors at present is honest Laurence Sterne, author of *Tristram Shandy*.

"CURRENT REPORT."

An installation of the Knights of the Garter took place about this period, and during the time that the preparations were making for it, an instance of the pious integrity of his majesty occurred, which forms another beautiful trait in his character. He was one day conversing on the subject of the approaching installation with some persons of high rank at Windsor, when one of them, the late earl of Chesterfield, said, "Sir, are not the new knights now meant to be installed obliged to take the sacrament before the ceremony?" Upon this, his majesty changed countenance, and assuming a very grave look, after a moment or two of pause, "No," replied he, "that religious institution is not to be mixed with our profane ceremonies. Even at the time of my coronation I was very unwilling to take the sacrament; but when they told me that it was indispensable, and that I must receive it, I took the bauble from my head before I approached the communion table. The sacrament, my lord, is not to be profaned by our gothic institutions." The seriousness of the king's manner while he pronounced these words, impressed all present, and suspended for a short time the conversation. How deep a sense of religion must have animated such a prince!

The parliament met in 1777 at an early period, and the most remarkable circumstance of this session was the increase of the civil list establishment, which was considered as a most extraordinary measure at a time when the nation was burthened with an enormous public debt, and involved in an expensive war which must considerably enlarge that debt.

This bill was attended with a very singular circumstance, which gave rise to much observation; when the Speaker, sir Fletcher Norton, presented it, he addressed his majesty in the following bold and energetic language

"In a time, sir, of public distress, full of difficulty and danger, their constituents labouring under burthens almost too heavy to be borne, your faithful commons, postponing all other business, have not only granted to your majesty, a large present supply, but also a very great additional revenue, great beyond example, great beyond your majesty's highest expense; but all this, sir, they have done in the *well-grounded* confidence that you will apply wisely what they have granted liberally."

His majesty did not feel offended at the bold truths and strong language in which he was addressed. A gentleman then present said, "I narrowly watched the royal eye, when this speech was delivered, and declare, with pleasure, I did not perceive one symptom of displeasure deranging the mild serenity and dignified softness of the Brunswick countenance."

An address of this kind was very unusual, and therefore was not likely to pass unheeded by the ministerial party in the house of commons. Mr. Rigby made a very severe animadversion upon it, and charged the Speaker with nothing less than insulting the king and misrepresenting the sense of parliament. The conduct of the Speaker was ably vindicated by Mr. Fox, who moved, "That the Speaker of this house, in his speech to his majesty at the bar of the house of peers, did express, with just and proper energy, the sentiments of this house." This motion after a long debate was carried.

This addition to the civil list, formed however, a strong ground of complaint, for it was asserted

that the revenues of it were employed in creating an undue influence in parliament; for the economy and abstemious mode of life which the king pursued were too well known to allow the supposition to exist for a moment, that the defalcation was to be attributed to extravagance. It was therefore roundly asserted, and never contradicted, that the overgrown influence of the crown had been increased by it, and that it only enabled ministers to carry on those measures which would ultimately lead to the ruin of the empire.

His majesty was twice attacked this year: once, as he was taking an airing on horseback in Hyde-Park, attended only by two grooms, he was stopped by a man on foot, who seized the reins of his horse's bridle. The grooms secured the man, and he was carried before sir John Fielding. On his examination it appeared that he was insane.

The second time, when his majesty was going to the Haymarket theatre, an alarm was excited by a mad woman, who broke the glass of his chair, and was about to proceed to other acts of violence, when she was seized by the attendants, and placed under the control of the peace officers.

It was at this period that the firmness of his majesty's character was strongly exemplified in his refusal to mitigate the sentence of Dr. Dodd, although there never was an instance in which such uncommon interest was used to save the life of a criminal. The city of London petitioned his majesty on the subject; praying him to spare the life of the culprit; and this petition was followed by a number of others, to one of which was attached 11,000 signatures, but the justice of his majesty was inflexible, he considered that his pardon for the crime of forgery might be drawn into a precedent, and although his feelings were evidently agitated when the

death-warrant was laid before him, he sacrificed his own personal considerations to what he considered to be the welfare of the nation, and the execution was accordingly consummated.

Towards the close of the year, the princess Sophia was born, and at this period their majesties could boast of one of the finest families in the kingdom. It consisted,

1. George, Prince of Wales, born August 12, 1762, K.G.; appointed Regent, February 6, 1814; married April 8, 1795, to the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, born May 17, 1768, by whom he had issue, Charlotte Augusta, born January 7, 1796; married May 2, 1816, to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg; died November 5, 1817.

2. Frederick, Duke of York, born August 16, 1763; elected Bishop of Osnaburgh, February 27, 1764; K.G.; married September 29, 1791; to the Princess Frederica Charlotte Ulrica, Princess Royal of Prussia, born May 7, 1767.

3. William Henry, Duke of Clarence, born August 21, 1765, K.G. and K.T.; married to the Princess of Meiningen.

4. Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Princess Royal, born September 29, 1766, married to the late King of Wirtemberg.

5. Edward, Duke of Kent, K.G., born November 2, 1767; on the 29th of May, 1818, married the Princess of Leiningen, sister to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg; died January 23, 1820.

6. Princess Augusta Sophia, born November 8, 1768.

7. Princess Elizabeth, born May 22, 1770; on the 7th of April, 1818, married to the Prince of Hesse Hombourg.

8. Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, K.G., born June 5, 1771; married, 1815, to Frederica of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, born March 2, 1768.

9. Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, K.G. born January 27, 1773.

10. Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, K.G., born February 24, 1774; married to the Princess of Hesse, 1818.

11. Princess Mary, born April 25, 1776; married to her cousin, his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, 22d July, 1816.

12. Princess Sophia, born November 3, 1777. And two Princes died in infancy.

The degree of importance which his majesty attached to public opinion may, in some degree, be gathered from the following anecdote:

Previous to General Clinton's return to America in April, 1777, he demanded a formal audience of the king, and particularly requested that his letter on the affair at Charles Town should be published in the Gazette, unmutated. His majesty answered, "Clinton, you would injure yourself in appealing from the crown to the people. I am perfectly satisfied with your conduct. Why are you so solicitous what the multitude think of you? If you are right, twenty to one but they condemn you."

Gen. Clinton. "But my honour, sire, appears—"

King. "Leave your honour to me; it will be in as good hands as if with the people."

Gen. Clinton. "Your majesty shall be obeyed. If you, sire, are satisfied, I shall always be happy."

The year 1778 was ushered in by the customary amusements at court; in which the younger branches of the royal family participated with all the enthusiasm of youth. The new-year's ode was performed before their majesties, the poetical merit of which is so far below mediocrity, that it would not have been worthy of insertion, had it not furnished us with another and very striking example of the strength of his majesty's religious principles. The following was the ode:

When rival nations, great in arms,
Great in power, in glory great,
Fill the world with war's alarms,
And breathe a temporary hate,
The hostile storms but rage awhile,
And the tir'd contest ends :
But ah ! how hard to reconcile
The foes who once were friends !

Each hasty word, each look unkind,
Each distant hint, that seems to mean
A something lurking in the mind
Which almost longs to lurk unseen ;
Each shadow of a shade offends
Th' embitter'd foes who once were friends.

That power alone who fram'd the soul,
And bade the springs of passion play,
Can all the jarring strings controul,
And form on discord concord's sway.

'Tis he alone, whose breath of love
Did o'er the world of waters move,
Whose touch the mountains bends ;
Whose word from darkness call'd forth light,
'Tis he alone can re-unite
The foes who once were friends.

To him, O Britain ! bow the knee ;
His awful, his august decree,
Ye rebel tribes adore !
Forgive at once, and be forgiven,
Ope in each breast a little heaven,
And discord is no more.

It was during the performance of the ode, that some very strong signs of displeasure manifested themselves in the countenance of his majesty, and the ceremony was no sooner over, than he desired one of the lords in waiting, to convey to the Poet Laureat the strong expressions of his displeasure, of the manner in which the Almighty had been alluded to in the ode. "It is in his sacred temples," said his majesty "I delight to hear his praise, and I consider it impious to convert a joyous ode into an Anthem or a Psalm; let me not know it repeated."

It is a singular fact, that the roving lunatics generally selected his majesty as the object of their attack, and his life was often in the most imminent danger. One of these instances occurred on the 2d January, 1778.

As his majesty was getting out of his chair in the passage, near the Friary, leading to the back stairs at St. James's, a woman suddenly rushed before the chair, and was going to lay hold on him, but he with difficulty avoided her. The king asked her "What she wanted?" To which she gave an impudent answer, and said her name was queen Beck. She afterwards said that her name was Rebecca O'Hara, that she was born in Ireland, and had been in England five years, and that she lodged at a public-house near Red Lion-square. On inquiry this was found to be false, and in order to determine whether she was really out of her senses, Sir John Fielding committed her to Tothill-fields bridewell for further examination. She afterwards proved to be a lunatic, and proper care was taken of her.

His majesty this year was occupied in making the necessary arrangements for the future settlement of his family, and on the 8th of April, he sent a message to parliament, calling on the two houses to enable him to make suitable provisions for his younger children out of the hereditary revenues of the crown, which could not be effected without an act of parliament made and provided for that purpose.

His majesty proposed to settle an annuity of 60,000*l.* on the six younger princes; 50,000*l.* on the five princesses, and 12,000*l.* on the present duke and princess Sophia of Gloucester; but these annuities were only to take effect, in the first instance, on the demise of his majesty, and secondly, on the demise of the then duke of Gloucester.

A bill to the above effect was passed, and it

was received by parliament with a better temper than it had of late testified on the reception of money-bills. It received the royal assent on the 16th of April.

His majesty made several excursions this year to different parts of the kingdom; his first naval excursion was to Chatham, to which place he set off on the 24th of April, attended by the earl of Sandwich, &c., embarked on board the *Augusta* yacht at Greenwich, and arrived at Chatham on the 25th, amidst a full chorus of shipwrights, who welcomed his majesty with the song of "God save the King." After taking a survey of the works as far as time would permit, he returned to his yacht to dinner; he afterwards proceeded on his survey till near dark. Next day he reviewed the first regiment of royals; held a public levee at the commissioner's house, where he received the officers and neighbouring gentry; and where the mayor and corporation of Rochester in their formalities, made their compliments in a short speech.

His majesty the same evening went in his barge on board the *Victory*; upon his entering the ship, the royal standard was hoisted, and his majesty, after having spent upwards of two hours in examining the same, returned to the yacht about seven o'clock, being saluted upon his leaving the ship, with a royal salute of twenty-one guns.

Monday, April 27. At nine o'clock, his majesty went again on board the *Victory*, where he had a levee, when the captains and officers of his ships at Sheerness and the Nore were presented to him. His majesty, after continuing on board about three quarters of an hour, went into his barge, preceded by rear-admiral Campbell, as before, rowed down to Sheerness, and landed in the dock-yard at ten o'clock, where he was received by lord Amherst, the

commissioners of the navy, and officers of the yard.

His majesty afterwards examined the ships fitting in the docks, the batteries, and the naval and ordnance store-houses. At twelve o'clock, his majesty left the yard, and rowed to the yacht at Blackstakes; and as soon as the tide was made, at half past one o'clock, weighed and sailed, being saluted by the *Victory*, the garrison of Sheerness, the ships at the Nore, and the forts, as he passed. The wind being fair from the Nore, his majesty landed at Greenwich at twelve at night, where his carriages and escort were ready to receive him; and arrived in about three quarters of an hour at St. James's.

His second excursion was on the 2d of May to Portsmouth, in which he was accompanied by her majesty. They set off at six in the morning from the Queen's-house, and arrived at Portsmouth about three quarters past twelve, when they were saluted by all the guns round the works and the garrison.

Their majesties arrived at the commissioner's house about one o'clock, escorted by a party of the Third or Queen's Regiment of Dragoon Guards. His majesty was attended by the marquis of Lothian, gold stick in waiting; the honourable colonels St. John and Harcourt, two of his aid-de-camps; and lieutenant-general Carpenter, his equerry in waiting; and her majesty by the marquis of Caermarthen, lord chamberlain of her majesty's household; and the countess of Egremont, one of the ladies of her bed-chamber. The standard was immediately hoisted in the dock-yard, and the workmen assembled, and gave their majesties several cheers as they passed. Their majesties were received at the door of the commissioner's house by the earl of Sandwich, lord Amherst, lieutenant-general Monckton, the commissioners

of the navy, and the commissioners and officers of the yard. His majesty left the house at half past five o'clock in the afternoon, to visit the yard; and, after viewing the ships in docks, the smith's shop, and boat-house, returned to the commissioner's house about seven o'clock.

Sunday, May 3. At ten o'clock, their majesties went to the garrison chapel, where they heard divine service. After which their majesties had a public levee at the governor's house, and were waited on by the mayor, aldermen, and corporation of Portsmouth, with their addresses.

Monday, May 4. The king left the yard at seven o'clock in the morning, and went to the gun-wharf, viewed the ordnance-stores and store-houses, and returned to the yard about eight o'clock. At a quarter past nine, the queen went in the barge to the yacht, which lay half way to Spithead. The barge was preceded by admiral Pye with his flag flying, and followed by the other admirals and captains in their boats, drawn up in four regular lines, and amounting to fifty boats. The ships in the harbour were manned, and on getting out of the harbour, the guns of the platform, the Blockhouse-Fort, and South-sea Castle, saluted her majesty as she passed. Her majesty got on board the yacht at half past nine. All the ships at Spithead were manned, and the fleet saluted her majesty with twenty-one guns each. At a quarter past ten, the barge returned to the dock-yard, and his majesty embarked on board her, attended by the admirals and captains in their boats, in the same manner as her majesty.

On the king's arrival at Spithead, all the ships were manned, and saluted his majesty. His majesty was rowed through the fleet, and received three cheers as he passed each ship. At half past eleven, the king went on board the

Prince George of 90 guns, (admiral Keppel), where the standard was immediately hoisted, the fleet saluting with twenty-one-guns each.

The yacht with her majesty on board, sailed round the fleet; the ships were all manned and gave three cheers as the yacht passed.

At half past twelve, the fleet saluted the queen, with twenty-one guns each ship, as her majesty passed by the prince George. His majesty, during his stay on board, saw the men at their quarters, when they performed their several exercises of the great guns and small arms; after which, his majesty received all the captains of the fleet upon the quarter deck. At one o'clock, the king left the prince George, and went into the barge, the crew giving three cheers. The barge was preceded by admiral Pye in his barge, and followed by the admirals and captains of the fleet in their barges, and went on board the yacht, which lay at anchor to windward of the fleet, at half past one, where their majesties dined, the king under an awning on the quarter-deck, the flag-officers, generals, and those of his majestys suite, having the honour to dine at his table.

At half past four, the queen's health was drank, followed by a general salute from the fleet of twenty-one guns each. The same salute was repeated a few minutes after, when his majesty drank to the prosperity of the navy, and to all his good subjects by sea and land. The king went into his barge at six o'clock, and rowed round the fleet; and afterwards returned in his yacht into the harbour, being saluted by the whole fleet, and the several forts as before, and by a number of cannon from the shores of Portsmouth, and Gosport. Their majesties left the yacht at half past eight, landed at the dock-yard, and went to the commissioner's house.

The day being very fine, an incredible

number of vessels, pleasure yachts and boats, attended their majesties; and, on their return in the evening, all the houses of Portsmouth and Gosport were illuminated, as they had been the preceding evening.

Tuesday, May 5. At nine o'clock their majesties left the yard, and went to the glacis near South-sea Common, where his majesty reviewed the 25th regiment of foot, commanded by lieutenant-general lord George Lenox.

His majesty went from the review to see the new fortifications erected round the common, for the better protection of the dock-yard, and returned about half-past one.

At six o'clock, his majesty saw the rope-houses, and several other store-houses, and the academy. He afterwards walked through the yard to the new ground, went into the St. George of ninety guns, whose frame was nearly completed, and returned to the commissioner's house at a quarter past eight o'clock.

Wednesday, May 6. Their majesties, at half past nine, went into the rope-house, and saw every branch of that manufacture. Her majesty returned immediately, and the king went in the barge to the victualling brew-house at Weevill, viewed the whole carrying on there, and returned to the yard at half past twelve.

His majesty then walked into the town of Portsmouth to inspect the victualling-office and store-houses; which having been thoroughly examined, he proceeded to the marine barracks, and then came back to the yard; went into the rigging house, and returned to the commissioner's house at half past one o'clock.

Thursday, May 7. Their majesties set out at half past eleven in the morning for the seat of the late earl of Hallifax, at Stanstead, in Sussex, about twelve miles off, and returned at a quarter past three to dinner.

His majesty went, about six in the evening, in his barge up the harbour, on board the Britannia, of one hundred guns, and the Royal William of eighty four; looked into every part of these ships, and returned to the yard about eight o'clock.

Friday, May 8. His majesty went, about half past six in the morning, under the bottom of a frigate of twenty-eight guns, to see the workmen sheathe her with copper, where his majesty staid near half an hour.

At ten o'clock, their majesties went in the barge on board the Princess Augusta yacht, and sailed in her through the fleet at Spithead to St. Helen's; and returned to the Mother-bank, where she came to an anchor.

About six in the evening, the yacht, with their majesties on board, sailed through the merchant-ships in Stokes Bay, and left Spithead about half past seven to go into the harbour; then parting with the fleet, they received a royal salute from every ship, of twenty-one guns, and the same from South-sea Castle, Blockhouse-Fort, and the saluting battery of the town, as they passed them in their way into the harbour. Their majesties landed at eight o'clock, and went to the commissioner's house, before which, the workmen were assembled, who gave three cheers, and then dispersed.

St. James's, May 9. This morning, about half past eight o'clock, their majesties got into their post-chaise at Portsmouth, and arrived at the queen's house at half an hour past four o'clock.

His majesty created the commissioner and sir Richard Bickerton, who steered their majesties the last and the present time, baronets; and Digby Dent, captain to the senior flag, knight; Edward Linzee, esq., the mayor, desired to be excused the honour.

During his majesty's residence at Windsor, it was his general custom to rise early, and

walk about his farms; and on these occasions many pleasant little incidents occurred on meeting with rustics, to whom he was sometimes unknown. One day, he had to pass through a narrow hedge-gate, on which sat a young clown, who showed no readiness in moving. "Who are you, boy?" said the king. "I be a pig-boy," answered he. "Where do you come from? Who do you work for here?" "I be from the low country; out of work at present." "Don't they want lads here?" said the king. "I doan't know," rejoined the boy, "all belongs hereabouts to *Georgy*." "Pray," said his majesty, "who is *Georgy*?" "He be the king, and live at the castle, but he does no good for me." His majesty immediately gave orders at his farm hard by to have the boy employed; and when he saw him, told him to be a steady lad, and "*Georgy*" might do some good for him.

On another occasion, his majesty, in one of his morning walks, accompanied by the prince of Wales, met a farmer's servant travelling to Windsor with a load of commodities for market. Unhappily, however, the cart was stuck fast in the mud, nor could the poor fellow extricate it, though labouring with all his might. Both the king and the prince were dressed in a style of great simplicity; and as if with one impulse of humanity, they immediately rushed forward to the assistance of the embarrassed rustic. Having through the dint of main strength enabled him to set his cart fairly on the road, the poor fellow, glowing with gratitude, asked them very cordially if they would accept of a cup of ale from him at the next house; adding, that as the road was dirty, they were heartily welcome to take a seat on the cart. Both these offers were of course declined, and they parted; the king having previously slipped a guinea, and the prince two guineas, into the hands of the rustic.

The man was thunderstruck; nor could he help relating the particulars of his adventure the moment he reached Windsor. He was assured that it must have been to the king and the prince that he had been so highly indebted; and the only circumstance that seemed to puzzle the man himself, and make him doubt the fact, was, that the prince should have given him two guineas, while the king gave him but one.

Every thing, as here related, soon reached the ears of the monarch, and happening the week following to meet the same man again on his way to market, he stopped him, and smiling, said, "Well, my friend, I find you were rather dissatisfied with the little present I made you when we last met; the son you thought more munificent than the father. He was so, I confess; but remember, my good fellow, that I am obliged to be just before I can be generous; my son has, at present, nobody to care for but himself; and I (with an infinite deal of more anxiety in my mind than you can possibly experience) am bound to promote the happiness of millions, who look to me for that protection, which your children at home expect, and have a right to demand from you."

One morning as he was walking out early, at Windsor, the king thus addressed a boy at the stable door:—"Well, boy, what do you do? what do they pay you?" "I help in the stable, but I have nothing but victuals and clothes." "Be content," said the patriot monarch; "I have no more." The acute and philosophical good sense of this answer will remind our readers of two well-known lines of Pope in his *Essay on the Use of Riches*:—

"What riches give us, let us then inquire:

Fire, clothes, and meat. Q. What more? A. Meat,
clothes, and fire."

To those who have a taste for the pleasures of

domestic life, the following account of the ease and affability which distinguished the royal family in their private life, will be read with peculiar interest.

Mrs. Chapone, who was niece of Dr. Thomas, bishop of Winchester (formerly preceptor to the king,) and used to spend much of her time at her uncle's residence at Farnham Castle, relates the following anecdotes of the royal family, in a letter to Mr. Burrows, dated August 20th, 1778. "Mr. Buller went to Windsor on Saturday; saw the king, who inquired much about the bishop; and hearing that he would be eighty-two next Monday, 'then,' said the king, 'I will go and wish him joy.' 'And I,' said the queen, 'will go too.' Mr. B. then dropt a hint of the additional pleasure it would give the bishop, if he could see the princes. 'That,' said the king, 'requires contrivance; but if I can manage it, we will all go.' On the Monday following, the royal party, consisting of their majesties, the prince of Wales, duke of York, duke of Clarence, the princess Royal, and princess Augusta, visited the bishop. "The king," continues Mrs. Chapone, "sent the princes to pay their compliments to Mrs. Chapone," himself he said was an old acquaintance." Whilst the princes were speaking to me, Mr. Arnold, sub-preceptor, said, 'These gentlemen are well acquainted with a certain ode prefixed to Mrs. Carter's Epictetus, if you know any thing of it.' Afterwards the king came, and spoke to us, and the queen led the princess royal to me, saying, 'this is a young lady who, I hope, has much profited by your instructions. She has read them (Letters on the Improvement of the Mind) more than once, and will read them often;' and the princess assented to

the praise which followed with a very modest air. I was pleased with all the princes, but particularly with prince William, who is little of his age, but so sensible and engaging, that he won the bishop's heart; to whom he particularly attached himself, and would stay with him while all the rest ran about the house. His conversation was surprisingly manly and clever for his age; yet with the young Bullers he was quite the boy, and said to John Buller, by way of encouraging him to talk, 'Come, we are both boys you know.' All of them shewed affectionate respect to the bishop; the prince of Wales pressed his hand so hard, that he hurt it."

But the most interesting account is contained in a letter of the celebrated Mrs. Delany to the honourable Mrs. Hamilton, dated June 28, 1779 * :

"What a task you have set me, my dear friend; I can no more tell the particulars of all the honours I received last autumn from the king and queen, and eight of their royal progeny, than I can remember last year's clouds,—a simile, by-the-by, ill adapted to the grace and benignity of their manners, that gave a lustre even to Bulstrode, superior as it is to most places. I had formed to myself a very different idea of such visitors, and wished the day over; but their affability and good humour left no room for any thing but admiration and respect: for, with the most obliging condescension, there was no want of proper dignity to keep the balance even. They were delighted with the place, but above all with the mistress of it, whose sweetness of manners, and knowledge of propriety, engage all ranks. To give you a just notion of the entertainment, you should have a

* I think it proper to acknowledge, that this letter is extracted from Mrs. Delany's correspondence with Mrs. Frances Hamilton, just published.

plan of the house, that I might lead you through the apartments; but imagine every thing that is elegant and delightful, and you will do more justice to the place and entertainment, than I can by my description.

"The royal family (ten in all) came at twelve o'clock. The king drove the queen in an open chaise, with a pair of white horses. The prince of Wales and prince Frederick rode on horse-back, all with proper attendants, but no guards; princess royal and lady Weymouth, in a post-chaise; princess Augusta, princess Elizabeth, prince Adolphus (about seven years old,) and lady Charlotte Finch, in a coach; prince William, prince Edward, duke of Montague, and bishop of Lichfield, in a coach; another coach, full of attendant gentlemen; amongst the number, Mr. Smelt, whose character sets him above most men, and does great honour to the king, who calls him his friend, and has drawn him out of his solitude (the life he had chosen) to enjoy his conversation every leisure moment. These, with all their attendants in rank and file, made a splendid figure as they drove through the park, and round the court, up to the house. The day was as brilliant as could be wished, the 12th of August, the prince of Wales's birth-day. The queen was in a hat, and an Italian night-gown of purple lustring, trimmed with silver gauze. She is graceful and genteel: the dignity and sweetness of her manner, the perfect propriety of every thing she says, or does, satisfies every body she honours with her distinction so much, that beauty is by no means wanting to make her perfectly agreeable; and though age and long retirement from court made me feel timid on my being called to make my appearance, I soon found myself perfectly at ease; for the king's condescension and good humour took off all awe, but what one must have for so respectable a character

(severely tried by his enemies at home, as well as abroad). The three princesses were all in frocks; the king and all the men were in an uniform, blue and gold. They walked through the great apartments, which are in a line, and attentively observed every thing, the pictures in particular. I kept back in the drawing-room, and took that opportunity of sitting down; when princess royal returned to me, and said the queen missed me in the train: I immediately obeyed the summons with my best alacrity. Her majesty met me half-way, and seeing me hasten my steps, called out to me, 'Though I desired you to come, I did not desire you to run and fatigue yourself.'

"They all returned to the great drawing-room, where there were only two armed chairs placed in the middle of the room for the king and queen. The king placed the duchess dowager of Portland in his chair, and walked about admiring the beauties of the place. Breakfast was offered—all prepared in a long gallery that runs the length of the great apartments (a suit of eight rooms and three closets.) The king and all his royal children, and the rest of the train, chose to go to the gallery, where the well-furnished tables were set: one with tea, coffee, and chocolate; another with their proper accompaniments of eatables, rolls, cakes, &c.; another table with fruits and ices in the utmost perfection; which with a magical touch had succeeded a cold repast. The queen remained in the drawing-room: I stood at the back of her chair, which happening to be one of my working, gave the queen an opportunity of saying many flattering and obliging things. The duchess dowager of Portland brought her majesty a dish of tea on a waiter, with biscuits, which was what she choose; after she had drank her tea, she would not return the cup to the duchess; but got up and

would carry it into the gallery herself, and was much pleased to see with what elegance every thing was prepared; no servants but those out of livery made their appearance. The gay and pleasant appearance they all made, and the satisfaction all expressed, rewarded the attention and politeness of the duchess of Portland, who is never so happy as when she gratifies those she esteems worthy of her attention and favours. The young royals seemed quite happy, from the eldest to the youngest, and to inherit the gracious manners of their parents. I cannot enter upon their particular address to me, which not only did me honour, but showed their humane and benevolent respect for old age.

“The king desired me to show the queen one of my books of plants: she seated herself in the gallery; a table and the book laid before her.—I kept my distance till she called me to ask some questions about the mosaic paper work; and as I stood before her majesty, the king set a chair behind me. I turned with some confusion and hesitation, on receiving so great an honour, when the queen said, ‘Mrs. Delany, sit down, sit down: it is not every lady that has a chair brought her by a king;’ so I obeyed. Amongst many gracious things, the queen asked me ‘why I was not with the duchess when she came; for I might be sure she would ask for me?’ I was flattered, though I knew to whom I was obliged for the distinction, (and doubly flattered by *that*.) I acknowledged it in as few words as possible, and said I was particularly happy at that time to pay my duty to her majesty, as it gave me an opportunity of seeing so many of the royal family, which age and obscurity had deprived me of. ‘Oh, but,’ says her majesty ‘you have not seen *all* my children yet;’ upon which the king came up and asked what we were

talking about? which was repeated, and the king replied to the queen, ‘you may put Mrs. Delany into the way of doing that, by naming a day for her to drink tea at Windsor-castle.’ The duchess of Portland was consulted, and the next day fixed upon, as the duchess had appointed the end of the week for going to Weymouth.—

“We went at the hour appointed, seven o’clock, and were received in the lower private apartment at the castle: went through a large room with great bay windows, where were all the princesses and youngest princes, with their attendant ladies and gentlemen. We passed on to the bedchamber, where the queen stood in the middle of the room, with lady Weymouth and lady Charlotte Finch. (The king and the eldest princes had walked out.) When the queen took her seat, and the ladies their places, she ordered a chair to be set for me opposite to where she sat, and asked me if I felt any wind from the door or window?—It was indeed a sultry day.

“At eight, the king, &c., came into the room, with so much cheerfulness and good humour, that it was impossible to feel any painful restriction. It was the hour of the king and queen and eleven of the princes and princesses walking on the terrace. They apologised for going, but said the crowd expected them; but they left lady Weymouth and the bishop of Lichfield to entertain us in their absence: we sat in the bay-window, well pleased with our companions, and the brilliant show on the terrace, on which we looked; the band of music playing all the time under the window.—When they returned we were summoned into the next room to tea, and the royals began a ball, and danced two country dances, to the music of French horns, bassoons, and hautboys, which were the same that played on the terrace. The

king came up to the prince of Wales and said he was sure, when he considered how great an effort it must be to play that kind of music so long a time together, that he would not continue their dancing there, but that the queen and the rest of the company were going to the queen's house, and they should renew their dancing there, and have proper music."

On Monday the 28th. of September, their majesties set out on their western tour, at one in the afternoon, from Windsor-castle, and arrived at Winchester about half-past five in the afternoon, and alighted at Mr. Penton's house, where they were waited on by the mayor and corporation, who addressed the king in a loyal speech, as did the master and fellows of the college, and received most gracious answers.

Their majesties supped and slept at Eastgate-house during their stay. Her majesty held her levees there, and the king at St. John's house.

The next morning his majesty reviewed the troops, and after the review ended, the king went to the tent prepared for his reception, where he afterwards dined, as did the queen in another tent prepared for her majesty. During the review a whimsical incident happened to Garrick, and at the same time, it was strongly

indicative of the correctness of his majesty's ear. Garrick found it necessary to dismount, when his horse escaped from his hold and ran off; throwing himself immediately into his professional attitude, he cried out, as if in Bosworth-field, "A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!" This exclamation, and the accompanying attitude, excited great amazement amongst the surrounding spectators, who knew him not; but it could not escape his majesty's quick apprehension: for, it being within his hearing, he immediately said, "Those must be the tones of Garrick; see if he is not on the ground." The theatrical and dismounted monarch was immediately brought to his majesty, who not only condoled with him most good humouredly on his misfortune, but flatteringly added, "That his delivery of Shakespeare could never pass undiscovered."

On the 30th, their majesties were pleased to take a view of the cathedral, its antiquities, architecture, &c., and afterwards to visit the college, where their majesties were addressed in a Latin speech* by Mr. Chamberlayne, son of William Chamberlayne, Esq., solicitor of the treasury, the senior scholar on the foundation, and fellow elect of New College, Oxford; and in English by the earl of Shaftesbury†. As soon

* Mr. Chamberlayne's speech. "Regum antiquorum (Rex augustissime) morem revocas, qui literatorum sedulitate interesse, oculisque et aspectu doctrinarum studia comprobare non indignum putabant amplitudine sua. Et profecto, complures reges hospites, Henricos, Edvardos, Carolos, olim excepit vetus hoc inclytumque Musarum domicilium: nullum, qui bonas literas te (Pater illustrissime) vel magis amaverit, vel auxerit, vel ornaverit. Quin et animum tuum propensamque in literas voluntatem vel hoc abunde testari possit, quod vicina castra tot tantisque procerum Britannicorum pro patria militantium præsidiis instructissima bellicis spectaculis te non penitus occupatum tennere, quo minus at togatam juventutem respiceres, et ex armorum strepitu remissionem quandam literati hujus otii captares. Ut diu vivas et valeas, in utriusque Minervæ perennem gloriam, tibi fausta et felicia comprecantur omnia, voventque Wiccamici tui."

† Lord Shaftesbury's verses.

"Forgive th' officious Muse, that with weak voice,
And trembling accents rude, attempts to hail
Her Royal Guest! who, from yon tented field,
Britain's defence and boast, has deign'd to smile

On Wickham's sons; the gentler arts of peace
And science, ever prompt to praise, and Mars
To join with Pallas! 'Tis the Muse's task
And office best to consecrate to Fame,

as they returned, they set off instantly for Salisbury. They ordered sums of money to be left for the poor, at the disposal of the mayor; for the three senior boys on the foundation, for the debtors in the prisons, and for other charitable purposes.

They arrived at Salisbury a quarter before three in the afternoon. They were here addressed by the bishop and clergy, by the dean and chapter, and by the mayor and commonalty of the city of New Sarum.

When the king went to look at Salisbury cathedral, the tower of which was at that time under repair, he was without attendants, and his person, at first, not recognized. Looking over the book of Subscribers, he desired to be put down for 1,000*l*. "What name shall I write, sir?" said the person present. "Oh!—a gentleman of Berkshire," replied the king; thus, by a noble simplicity, identifying himself with his subjects. A draft was then given for the money.

Their majesties stopped a short time at the Deanery-house, and continued their route to Wilton-house, where they were received by the earl and countess of Pembroke, and addressed by the mayor, recorder, and burgesses of the borough of Wilton. On Thursday, their majesties left lord Pembroke's house a little before nine in the morning, and the review ended about two in the afternoon. His majesty was pleased to express his entire approbation of the appearance, discipline, and good order of the regiments, and about four returned with the queen to Wilton-house.

At half-past nine o'clock on Friday morning,

their majesties, attended by their suites, and the earl and countess of Pembroke, left Wilton-house on their way to Stonehenge, which their majesties examined very attentively. Their majesties arrived at the duke of Queensberry's house at Ambresbury at eleven o'clock, where they staid a little more than an hour, and then proceeded on their return to Windsor, where their majesties arrived at six o'clock in the evening.

On the 6th of October, about a quarter past seven o'clock, their majesties set out from St. James's, to stand sponsors to the new-born daughter of the duke and duchess of Chandos. Her majesty was dressed in white silk, flounced with silver, and a superb diamond stomacher. The countess of Hertford, as lady of the bed-chamber in waiting, attended on the occasion, as did the maids of honour, all dressed in white. His majesty was attended by lord Hertford and the earl of Winchelsea. The princess-royal did not go from St. James's, as expected.

The canopy, gold fringe and tassels, and illumination of lamps in the hall, at the entrance of the house of his grace the duke of Chandos, for the reception of their majesties and the princess royal, the rich canopy under which they sat, the new chairs and cushions for the christening of his grace's new-born daughter, with the chandelier and other decorations, are said to have cost upwards of 3,000*l*., besides the apparel of the child during the ceremony, being of the richest laces, to the amount of 700*l*.

A grand review being appointed to take place on Warley-common, a spectacle in which

Heroes and virtuous Kings: the generous youths,
My lov'd compeers, hence with redoubled toils,
Shall strive to merit such auspicious smiles;
And through life's various walks, in arts or arms,
Or tuneful numbers, with their country's love,

And with true loyalty inflam'd t' adorn
This happy realm; while thy paternal care
To time remote, and distant lands, shall spread
Peace, justice, riches, science, freedom, fame."

his majesty took great delight, on Monday the 19th of October, their majesties set out from the Queen's-house, and arrived at Thornden-place, in Essex, the seat of the right honourable the lord Petre, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On Tuesday morning, at three quarters past nine o'clock, his majesty on horseback, attended by his suite, and also by general lord Amherst, reviewed the troops. He beheld the whole from a stand erected by lord Petre in the centre of the scene. The several manœuvres being over a little before three o'clock, the king went towards the stand, where a circle being formed by the horse and grenadier guards, the several officers of the regiments were introduced regimentally to his majesty, and had the honour of kissing his majesty's hand. The king was graciously pleased to express great satisfaction at the appearance, discipline, and good order of the several regiments, and the royal artillery; and likewise his approbation of the manœuvres which were performed: and mounting his horse again, a royal salute was fired on his majesty's leaving the field.

The king returned to lord Petre's house, where his majesty, and likewise the queen, arrived a little after four o'clock.

After ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, the avenue from lord Petre's park, and the road and streets of Brentwood being lined by the light infantry, the 6th and Liverpool regiments of foot, the North Gloucester and North Lincolnshire regiments of militia, under the command of major-general Hall, their majesties attended by their suites, and lord and lady Petre, left Thornden-place, on their way to Navestock, the seat of the earl Waldegrave, where their majesties arrived a little before eleven; and having continued there till near three, their majesties set out on their return to

the Queen's-house, where their majesties arrived at a quarter past five.

In proof of his majesty's great preference of old English hospitality and manners to those of preparation, show, and ceremony, during the encampment at Warley-common, a nobleman of much weight and importance made great arrangements for the reception of the king, but who, instead of gratifying his vanity and ostentation, preferred the more humble but hospitable table and entertainment of his old friend lord Peters, who resided in the neighbourhood: when on their majesties return home, the queen happening to mention the disappointment of the nobleman, herself, and the young princesses her daughters, and that a prejudicial report had gone abroad that his majesty was a Roman Catholic; the king answered, "Poo! poo! I value not such idle reports; your majesty and the ladies might have gone to satisfy your curiosity and indulge his vanity, but as for myself, I have more respect for true British fare, and a hearty welcome, such as Peters's, than all such costly show and preparation; and, as to being a Roman Catholic, I wish all my men were brave Romans, and myself a good Catholic."

On the same occasion, one morning as his majesty was going on a visit to general Grant, in the same vicinity, in company with some officers of distinction, he was struck by the sight of a file of soldiers who were conducting a poor legless sailor, seated on a half-starved ass, to Brentwood, to go before a magistrate; when his majesty inquiring into the cause and nature of the offence of which he had been guilty, and being answered that he had been detected selling blue ointment among the men of the Hertfordshire militia, when lord Salisbury instantly ordered him to be taken up as a vagrant: the king cried, "Shame! shame!

desist soldiers, and take the poor man to some comfortable habitation, don't you see his wound is not yet healed; I will have orders given that he be taken care of, it is an unfeeling order in his lordship; Salisbury is well provided for himself, and cares not for others; this poor man was only getting his living in the best way he could in so bad a situation, by selling an useful remedy in many cases among soldiers." It being discovered that he had lost his leg in fighting for his country in a privateer, having run away from a man of war, and was consequently not entitled to any bounty, his majesty had him provided for, saying, "That whatever might have been the cause, such an object should never be suffered to perish in a nation like this."

The last excursion which their majesties took this year was to Coxheath-camp. They set out on Monday the 22d of November, at eleven o'clock from Kew, and arrived at Montreal in Kent, the seat of lord Amherst, a little after two.

On Tuesday morning, at nine o'clock, the king and queen left lord Amherst's house in their chaise, attended by their suites, and also by lord and lady Amherst, on their way to the camp at Coxheath; and, passing through the town of Sevenoaks, their majesties were pleased to stop their carriage at the door of the school there, which is of royal institution, and were addressed in a short speech by the master thereof.

His majesty then proceeded to the camp, where, having reviewed the troops, he remained till the evening gun had fired, when his majesty, mounting his horse, proceeded to Leeds-Castle, the seat of the honourable Mr. Fairfax, where his majesty arrived, as did also the queen, at seven o'clock. The castle and the approaches to it were elegantly illuminated in honour of

their majesties; and, the several general officers and colonels in camp had the honour of dining with his majesty.

At nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, the mayor and corporation of the town of Maidstone waited on his majesty with an address, which was very graciously received by his majesty; and the mayor, deputy recorder, jurats, and common-council, had the honour of kissing his majesty's hand.

His majesty was at the same time pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on William Bishop, Esq., the mayor of the town of Maidstone.

The corporation also waited with an address to the queen.

During the whole of these excursions, the king was pleased to leave sums of money for the poor of the several parishes through which their majesties passed; and to direct a return and state of all the persons confined for debt in the prisons at Maidstone, in order that such of them as should appear proper objects might receive his majesty's royal bounty for their enlargement.

At eleven o'clock their majesties, attended by their suites, left Leeds-Castle on their return to the Queen's-house, where their majesties arrived at four o'clock.

The earnestness with which his majesty entered into all these military and naval details, was perfectly in unison with, and indeed seemed to arise from, his determination as expressed in the message to Parliament a few months before, when he notified his orders to the British ambassador to quit the court of France; a message which he concluded with assuring them, that relying with the firmest confidence in the zealous and affectionate support of his faithful people, he was determined to be prepared to exert, if it should become neces-

sary, all the force and resources of his kingdoms; which he trusted would be found adequate to repel every insult and attack, and to maintain and uphold the power and reputation of this country.

Much was said during this period about backstairs influence; and, though the princess dowager was dead, it was loudly asserted, and believed by many, that lord Bute still guided the king's mind in regard to the line of politics now pursued, so that the ostensible ministers were merely the puppets of a hidden favourite; but a transaction which took place in the month of January this year, in regard to a change of ministry, wherein it was intended to offer place and power to his lordship, proves to a demonstration that these suspicions of private influence were unfounded.

Sir James Wright was a great admirer of lord Bute, and was supposed generally to be on terms of intimate friendship with him; and being so ill as to require medical aid, was attended by Dr. Addington, the father of the present lord Sidmouth, equally an admirer of lord Chatham both as a man and a minister. Dr. Addington conceived that lord Chatham was the only man qualified to extricate the nation from its existing difficulties, but also felt that the only probable means of bringing him into power must be by forming a coalition between the two ex-ministers. In the course of his visits he took several opportunities of expressing his sentiments on the subject; and, it is positively asserted by a confidential friend of lord Bute's, that both the physician and his patient regretting that their patrons could not unite for the good of the nation, Dr. Addington actually spoke on the subject to lord Chatham, who repeated the expressions of the particular value he had for lord Bute, and his desire to do all in his power to save the nation

from the imminent danger in which it was placed.

The worthy doctor took the earliest opportunity of relating this conversation to his patient, who acquainted lord Bute, and his lordship replied that lord Chatham would always find him disposed to concur with him in the efforts which he might make to serve the king and the nation; and that if he knew lord North, he would advise him to prevail on his majesty to avail himself of the services of lord Chatham, and to give him a share of his confidence.

Lord Chatham, being informed of this, is said to have understood by the phrase, "concur with him," that lord Bute still preserved some of his influence with the king; and he was therefore eager to have him informed that it was necessary, without delay, to form a new ministry, for quieting the Americans as well as the British nation; and he talked of nothing less than a total change of administration.

Dr. Addington had also persuaded lord Chatham to propose to lord Bute an interview, in order to concert measures; and he was the bearer of this proposal through the channel of Sir James: but lord Bute, greatly surprised that matters had gone so far, and that the general terms he had made use of in speaking of the disastrous state of affairs, had been so misunderstood, lost no time in dictating to sir James Wright such a letter as might be shewn to lord Chatham, the substance of which was, that he had entirely lost sight of public affairs, and that he had for ever given up all thoughts of taking any part in them. He added that several years had passed since he had seen the king; that consequently he could not be of any use to lord Chatham; and he concluded by declining the proposed interview.

Such is declared to be the true state of an affair of which numerous versions were given—

that there was a contradiction between the letter and the message—that lord Bute accepted the offered assistance to overturn the ministry; but held back on finding that lord Chatham intended to exclude him from office—in short, a thousand contradictory reports were spread, which we must now leave to oblivion.

It is a most curious fact, that in the account drawn up under the sanction of Dr. Addington, it is stated that sir James Wright actually asserted that the lords Bute and Chatham were the two men whom the king hated most!

It is proper to remark also, that sir James Wright published a counter-statement, in which he denied Dr. Addington's account almost *in toto*; but as this does not relate personally to the king himself, we must refer the curious reader to the *Annual Register* for 1778, or to Almon's *Anecdotes of the Life of Pitt*, in which this extraordinary affair is fully developed, though it must be confessed not a little tinged with partiality.

A very singular request was this year made to his majesty by the king of Sweden, to invest the right honourable lord Macleod with the ensigns of the order of the Sword, of which order his Swedish majesty had been pleased to nominate him a commander. It was one of the most distinguished honours which a nobleman could receive, not only to be appointed to a foreign order, but to be invested with it by another sovereign, and that sovereign, his own. We believe it to be the only instance in his majesty's reign, in which he acceded in this point to the request of a foreign sovereign, for although no foreign order can be worn by a subject of this country, without the special leave of the sovereign, yet it is a unique case for that sovereign to invest a subject with the insignia of an order granted by another.

The demands of the Catholics began to be

urged about the year 1778, but, however, it is perfectly understood that his late majesty had made a conscientious and immutable resolve never to admit the catholic claims. Indeed it may be argued how he could possibly adopt any other line of conduct, without exposing the protestant constitution, which he had solemnly pledged himself to preserve inviolate, to the most imminent peril. To prove, however, that not the smallest taint of persecution ever polluted his noble breast, the following anecdote is an unequivocal evidence.

Lord Mansfield on making a report to the king, of the conviction of Mr. Malowny, a Catholic priest, who was found guilty, in the county of Surrey, of celebrating mass, was induced by a sense of reason and humanity, to represent to his majesty the excessive severity of the penalty which the law imposed for the offence. The king, in a tone of the most heart-felt benignity, immediately answered—"God forbid, my lord, that religious difference in opinion should sanction persecution, or admit of one man within my realms suffering unjustly; issue a pardon immediately for Mr. Malowny, and see that he is set at liberty."

That his majesty was as friendly to religious liberty as he was inimical to persecution, is incontestible from several anecdotes which might be introduced to this effect, but one single instance will be sufficient.

The king was one day passing in his carriage through a place near one of the royal palaces, when the rabble were gathered together to interrupt the worship of the dissenters: his majesty stopped to know the cause of the hubbub; and being answered it was only some affair between the town's people and the methodists, he replied, loud enough to be heard by many, "the methodists are a quiet, good kind of people, and will disturb nobody; and if I can learn that

any persons in my employ disturb them, they shall be immediately dismissed." The king's most gracious speech was speedily recapitulated through the whole town, and persecution has not dared to lift its head there since that period.

Our late estimable sovereign cast the broad shield of his royal protection not only over that division of his subjects, which came under his immediate notice, but over those far distant from our happy island, as it respected liberty and conscience.

"It is pleasing to observe," says an elegant writer, "that advancing years have only increased our late gracious sovereign's attachment to principles of civil and religious toleration, and the promotion of the interests of religion and piety. It is some time since his majesty refused his assent to an act by which the legislature of the island of Jamaica proposed to restrain the missionaries of different protestant societies, who had been labouring with the happiest success for the religious instruction of the ignorant negroes of that island,—a task, to which the small number of resident clergymen of the Church of England had been totally inadequate. In contempt, however, of the express will of his majesty, the insular government had lately passed another persecuting act, with restrictions still more rigid, which his majesty was pleased to disallow in the most express manner; and to prevent the inconvenience of the colonial legislature's putting in execution their own acts, with the consent of the governors, until the royal pleasure was known, he graciously issued a general instruction to the governors of the West-India islands, requiring them that they should not, on any pretence whatever, give their assent to any law passed concerning religion, until they should have first transmitted the draught of the bill to his majesty, and should have received his pleasure respecting it; unless

they took care, in the passing of such a law, that a clause was inserted suspending its execution until the pleasure of his majesty should have been signified upon it.

One of the most interesting, and at the same time melancholy events which took place in the domestic relations of the country this year, was the death of the earl of Chatham. Had it been our province to have descanted at large upon the political history of the country, that celebrated statesman would have stood conspicuous upon our pages; he will live, however, in the grateful remembrance of his countrymen, who are now enjoying the fruits of his extraordinary wisdom and political foresight. He was a man unequalled in the senate and the cabinet, but the administrations which he formed, were sometimes of that heterogeneous nature, that the members themselves were often ignorant of the functions of their offices, and almost of the offices to which they were appointed. This has been most humorously described by Burke in the following words.

"He made an administration, so checkered and speckled; he put together a piece of joinery, so crossly indented and whimsically dovetailed; a cabinet so variously inlaid; such a piece of diversified Mosaic; such a tessellated pavement without cement; here a bit of black stone, and there a bit of white; patriots and courtiers, kings, friends, and republicans; whigs and tories, treacherous friends and open enemies: that it was indeed a very curious show; but utterly unsafe to touch, and unsure to stand on. The colleagues whom he had assorted at the same boards, stared at each other, and were obliged to ask, 'Sir, your name?—Sir, you have the advantage of me—Mr. Such-a-one—I beg a thousand pardons—' I venture to say, it did so happen, that persons had a single office divided between them, who

had never spoke to each other in their lives; until they found themselves, they knew not how, pigging together, heads and points, in the same truckle-bed."

It is by no means our intention to stand forth as the unqualified panegyrists of this great statesman, for there was scarcely ever a minister who behaved with so little urbanity and condescension to his colleagues, or who dictated to his sovereign in a more authoritative tone, than the earl of Chatham. He seemed born to command, not to obey, and if the orders of his sovereign militated against any of his favourites, he treated them with indifference. We shall, however, sum up his character in the following words—his name will survive in the annals of his country, for it may be truly called,

Clarum et venerabile nomen
Gentibus, et multum nostræ quod proderat urbi.

This great statesman, whose political abilities were known to all the world, and which not only saved, but aggrandized his own country, was the younger brother of an honourable family, his whole fortune being but an annuity of one hundred pounds per annum. With this pittance he looked to the army for his profession, and a cornetcy of horse was his first and only commission in it. Thus unassisted by favour or by fortune, he had no powerful protector to introduce him into business, or, to use lord Chesterfield's happy expression, *to do the honour of his parts*; but their own strength was fully sufficient.

His constitution refused him the usual pleasures, and his genius forbad him the idle dissipations of youth, for so early as at the age of sixteen, he was the martyr of an hereditary gout. He therefore employed the leisure which that tedious and painful distemper either pro-

cured or allowed him, in acquiring a great fund of premature and useful knowledge. Thus by the unaccountable relation of causes and effects, what seemed the greatest misfortune of his life, was perhaps the principal cause of its splendour.

He came very young into parliament, and upon that great theatre soon equalled the oldest and the ablest actors. His eloquence was of every kind, and he excelled in the argumentative as well as in the declamatory way. But his invectives were terrible, and uttered with such energy and diction, and such dignity of action and countenance, that he intimidated those who were the most willing and the best able to encounter him. Their arms fell out of their hands, and they shrunk under the ascendant which his genius gained over theirs.

In that assembly, where public good is so much talked, and private interest singly pursued, he set out with acting the patriot, and performed that part so ably, that he was adopted by the public as their chief, or rather their only unsuspected champion.

It is not the intention of the writer of this sketch, to obtrude upon the public a regular series of those high offices and honours he enjoyed, in consequence of his great abilities and integrity; they are circumstances too recent in point of time to need a repetition, and they are too indelibly graved upon the hearts of Englishmen to forget; indeed, if they wanted any foil, the ignorance and blunders of his successors in office would set them in the most exalted light. Be it sufficient then to say generally, that the weight of his popularity, and his universally acknowledged abilities, forced him upon the late king, to whom, at one time, he was personally obnoxious, but whom he soon found to be his most faithful and able servant, and his country's surest friend.

In the high offices of secretary of state, and prime minister, we for once behold a man, whose every action was so glorious, disinterested, and successful, as to silence a great share of that envy which commonly attends it. His contempt of money, in a great measure, effected this; for though most men think they have an equal natural right to riches, and equal abilities to make a proper use of them, not very many of them have the impudence to think themselves qualified for power.

His private life was stained by no vice, nor sullied by any meanness; all his sentiments were liberal and elevated; his ruling passion was an unbounded ambition, (and happy for this country it was so) for that alone, supported by great abilities, and great integrity, could make him what he was.

Sir Joshua Reynolds having this year published his seven discourses as president of the royal academy, dedicated them with great propriety to his majesty, and that in a style so judicious that it was aptly said to be a model to dedicators, and a hint both to writers and painters, that a portrait may be well drawn without being varnished, and highly coloured without being daubed.

In this dedication it was justly observed, that although his predecessors had established marts for manufactures, and colleges for science, yet for the arts of elegance, those arts by which manufactures are improved and science refined, to found an academy was reserved for his majesty.

Notwithstanding the king's apparent neglect of Reynolds as an artist, yet he never failed in paying him that marked graciousness which the world naturally expected, whenever any personal intercourse took place; as was manifested most particularly at the king's visit to the encampment at Winchester, Sir Joshua at

that time being on a visit to Dr. Warton at Winchester-college.

In the early part of the year 1779, an addition was made to the royal family, by the birth of a prince, who was shortly afterwards christened Octavius, but who died in May 1783. The city of London presented a most whining address to his majesty on the birth of the prince, in which, being conscious that they had deserved the displeasure of the king, they expressed themselves, "We implore your majesty so far to receive us into your favour, as to trust that our future conduct will be prompted by the same wish, and the *least* attention to our dutiful petitions and desires be acknowledged with the most perfect gratitude."

At this period, his majesty, who always evinced particular regard to sacred music, was a constant attendant at the Oratorios at Drury-lane, at which theatre, Alexander's Feast had been performed every night during the season. On one of these occasions, whilst the fine and inspiring air

The princes applaud, with a furious joy,

And the king seiz'd a flambeau with zeal to destroy,

was performing, his majesty rolled up his book of the Oratorio into a truncheon, starting up at the same time, and flourishing it over his head, whilst he exclaimed, "Bravo! bravo! encore! encore!" to the great surprise of the audience, before whom, his majesty seldom departed from his dignity, but on the contrary was always accustomed to repress his feelings with the most marked composure. His enthusiasm, however, in this instance, overcame the nice punctilios of royal etiquette.

His majesty's birth-day was celebrated on the 4th of June, 1779, with unusual splendour, in consequence of its being the first public appearance of his royal highness the prince of

Wales. He opened the ball in the evening with the duchess of Hamilton, in a minuet, and a more graceful couple had scarcely ever been seen before at court. His majesty was highly delighted with the manner in which his royal highness acquitted himself, and he was once heard to exclaim, "Aye, aye—the ladies must take care of their hearts!" a precaution which after years rendered very necessary. The value of the diamonds which her majesty wore on this occasion was estimated at above 100,000*l.* and so determined was his majesty's intention to discountenance all kinds of foreign manufacture, that not a single yard of French lace nor silk was to be seen on any of the ladies' dresses.

On the 3d of July, his majesty prorogued the parliament with the following speech :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The many great and essential services you have rendered to me and to your country, during the course of your long attendance in parliament, demand my most cordial thanks.

I have seen, with entire approbation, the zeal you have manifested for the support and prosecution of the just and necessary war in which I am engaged; nor am I less sensible of your attention to the present state of my kingdom of Ireland: my paternal affection for all my people makes me sincerely anxious for the happiness and prosperity of every part of my dominions.

Hitherto the events of war have afforded the court of France no reason to triumph on the consequences of their injustice and breach of public faith; and I trust, that by a spirited and prosperous exertion of the force you have put into my hands, that ambitious power may be brought to wish that they had not, without provocation or cause of complaint, insulted the honour and invaded the rights of my crown.

I have already acquainted you with the hostile step which has lately been taken by the court of Spain. Whatever colour may be attempted to be put upon that unjust proceeding, I am conscious that I have nothing to reproach myself with; it has been followed by the clearest

demonstrations of the loyalty and affection of my parliament to my person and government, for which I repeat to you my warmest thanks; and I consider it as a happy omen of the success of my arms, that the increase of difficulties serves only to augment the courage and constancy of the nation, and to animate and unite my people in the defence of their country, and of every thing that is dear to them.

The advanced season of the year requires that I should afford you some recess from public business; and I do it with the less reluctance, as, by the powers vested in me by law, I can have the aid of your advice and assistance within fourteen days, should any emergency make it necessary for me to convene you before the usual time.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The various and extensive operations of the war have unavoidably occasioned uncommon expense, and brought additional burthens on my faithful and beloved people, which I most sincerely regret. I cannot sufficiently thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me, and for the cheerfulness and public spirit with which the large supplies for the current year have been granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is impossible to speak of the continuance of the rebellion in North America without the deepest concern; but we have given such unquestionable proofs of our sincere disposition to put an end to those troubles, that I must still hope that the malignant designs of the enemies of Great Britain cannot long prevail against the evident interests of those unhappy provinces, and that they will not blindly persist in preferring an unnatural and dangerous connection with a foreign power, to peace and re-union with the mother country.

In the course of the sessions his majesty went three times to the house of peers, and, including the bills that were signed by commission, 222 bills received the royal assent, which was the greatest number known in one sessions for many years.

Notwithstanding the tumult of war, and the rage of political faction, his majesty was by no means indifferent to the advancement of the fine arts, nor to the eradication of many gross

errors which had crept into our domestic arrangements, particularly in reference to the management of prisons, and the preservation of the public morals. The attention of his majesty to the former subject was excited by the exertions of the philanthropist, Howard, who at this time appeared upon the theatre of the world as "the prisoner's friend," and opened the cell to the starving captive.

The court was no place for a man like Howard, but the deeds of such a man could not be concealed; their fame reached the ears of his majesty, and his dispositions being in a certain degree congenial, he heard them with delight; and, when the act was passed in 1779, for the establishment of penitentiary-houses, his majesty directed his attention to Mr. Howard, and expressed his wishes that he should be engaged as one of the three supervisors, who were appointed to carry that act into execution. Howard was, however, unwilling to undertake the office, as he always rejected private emolument for public services. His majesty, however, entertained so high an opinion of the talents and virtues of Howard, that his request was conveyed by Sir William Blackstone to the great philanthropist, who represented to him the propriety of his acceptance of the situation, particularly as the choice of his co-adjutors was left by his majesty entirely to himself. On this representation, Howard accepted the office, and his choice fell upon Dr. Fothergill and Mr. Whately as his coadjutors, which choice was immediately approved of by his majesty. Doctor Fothergill, however, dying the following year, Howard was induced to resign, although it was well known at the time, that the death of Dr. Fothergill was merely seized upon by Howard as an excuse for retiring; for, although the king was an active patron of the measure, yet

Howard found so many impediments thrown in the way of his plans by interested persons who lived by open peculation, that his disgust arose, and he seized the first plausible excuse for retiring, rather than connive at measures which were founded on fraud and dishonesty.

At this time their majesties and the royal family went to Windsor, to reside four days a-week during the recess of parliament; and, on Sunday his majesty, with the prince of Wales, bishop of Osnaburgh, prince Edward, together with their attendants, the duke of Montague, bishop of Litchfield, about ten o'clock took a walk towards Stoke, when a most violent shower of rain obliged them to take shelter at farmer Stiles's, near Stoke, who being at church, his two daughters were roasting a goose with a string at the fire (their jack being broke): his majesty and the princes seemed pleased at the novelty, and asked the girls what they had got there? who said, it was an old goose which had just done laying, and so they had swung her; but if they pleased to have some when it was ready, they were welcome. The joke so pleased his majesty that he presented the girls with two guineas at their departure, telling them, that was towards mending their jack: after which they returned to the queen's-house.

We are now hastening towards some of the most memorable periods of his majesty's life. The extended regions of history, like the face of the terraqueous globe, present to our view some tracts distinguished by their fertility; others by their barrenness. On the diversified prospect which cheers us by its beauty, or excites stronger emotions by its grandeur and sublimity, the eye delights to dwell; while from the long and trackless desert it turns away with a contemptuous inattention. The year 1780 may be called an epoch when the trivial circum-

stances which fill the pages of most histories give place to transactions which involve consequences of the deepest import to mankind; when the petty wars concerning the boundaries of a province or a disputed succession, no longer occupy the attention of mankind, but when the contest is concerning the principles, the laws of society itself, the forms of government, and the modes of thinking, which are to direct mankind.

A change in the sentiments of the public must sooner or later be followed by a change in the existing state of things. The latent flame which is kindled in the recesses of the earth, may for a while be resisted by the superincumbent weight, but it finds a passage at length, and the violence of the shock is perhaps proportionate to the force of the pressure. Innumerable causes had co-operated to a change of sentiments in the nations of Europe from the commencement of the eighteenth century: the Reformation had broken the strong fetters which superstition had forged; it had bestowed on man the privilege of thought, it had taught him to disregard authority, and to inquire into its foundation. It was some time, it was true, before the effects of this bold and innovating spirit could be extended to the civil institutions, but still the mind which is released from one prejudice, is at least prepared to struggle with another.

A cause, however, which co-operated with this, and which may perhaps be regarded as still more powerful, was the general diffusion of literature and science. The metaphysical polemics of the last century were succeeded by a series of writers, who, while they indulged a greater freedom of opinion, addressed the public in a style more popular and captivating, and adapted to make at least a more general impression. From the time of Mon-

tesquieu it became even fashionable to speculate on political subjects, and what the caution of that judicious writer permitted him only to glance at, was openly asserted by the extravagant philosophy of Voltaire and of Rousseau.

The increase of commerce had created a new, independent, and powerful interest in almost every community, which looked with a jealous eye on the exclusive privileges of the ancient aristocracy. The system of funding, which improvident wars had produced, established a new species of property, which could not be subjected to the feudal regulations. The distant dependencies which were held by the maritime states, and particularly by Great Britain, and the different forms of administration to which these must necessarily be submitted, all contributed to produce a diversity of interests which did not exist in the simplicity of the ancient governments; and where this takes place, the minds of men will soon become active, and will investigate as well with acuteness as with severity those rights which derive their chief support from antiquity, and from the passive acquiescence of ages.

The reign of George III., was the period in which some effect might be naturally expected from these concurrent circumstances, and there were other causes which contributed to hasten the crisis. Amongst these we must reckon that extraordinary spirit of Freedom in which the British colonies of America, through their original insignificance, or the negligence of government, had first been planted, a spirit which they had continued to cherish with the enthusiasm of sectaries, and with all that prejudice which attaches to a gift transmitted from our ancestors.

The year 1780 presents little satisfactory to the patriotic recollections of Britons. We look

back upon that distant period, as the traveller views from a distance the tremendous precipice he has passed, or the seaman the boisterous ocean on which he has suffered shipwreck. Wasted and weakened by a foreign war, and disgraced by the violent proceedings of an intolerant banditti at home, without wisdom in her councils, or unanimity amongst her citizens, Britain presented at that moment to the world a spectacle of humiliation and misery. Little progress had been made in the attempt to coerce the revolted colonies of North America; and the whole power of the house of Bourbon, the superior population of France, and the wealth of Spain, were combined with the activity and desperation of her own revolted subjects, to effect her ruin, while she stood alone, fighting single-handed, without an ally to support her.

The state of the political world towards the close of the year 1779, was such as to inspire every loyal breast with the most serious apprehensions for the safety of the country; but amidst the violent contentions which agitated every department of the state, some fine examples are transmitted to us of the firmness of his majesty, to which the country is, in a great measure, indebted for its preservation.

Before, however, entering into a detail of the horrid transactions which disfigure this period of our history, it will be necessary to give a slight analysis of the causes which led to them, and without which the narrative would be defective.

In the first place, the situations of England, Scotland, and Ireland, during the parliamentary recess, demand a distinct consideration. In England, the American war appeared in all its horrors, and the jealousies and discontent which a ministry, neglectful of the remonstrances of the people had occasioned, were greatly heightened by that chagrin which losses in trade occasion,

and which have peculiarly fatal effects on minds more susceptible of despondency, than capable of reflection. Such at that time was the complexion of the human mind in England, that it has been said with great justice, that they were more made for feeling than thinking. Eager, however, as opposition, and their adherents appeared to be for an end to the differences with America, they were by no means averse to engage in a war with the house of Bourbon, if happily by healing the breaches in our colonies, it might be possible to direct the whole force of the nation against those perfidious and time-serving powers, who had evidently embraced the hour of our distress to indulge a principle of revenge rather than lawful redress, and to efface the memory of our victories over them during the last war, rather than do themselves justice for any injuries offered to them in time of peace. Considerable sums were raised about this time in trading towns, for the service of the navy, the insufficient state of which, and its ineffectual dispositions were still causes of loud complaint. A few changes took place in the ministry, but of no consequence with regard to its strength or principles. Lord Stormont succeeded the earl of Suffolk, deceased, as secretary of state for the northern department. Earl of Bathurst succeeded lord Gower, who resigned, as president of the council; and the earl of Hillsborough succeeded lord Weymouth, as secretary of state for the southern department. The place of first lord of trade, being separated from its connexion with that of secretary of state for the colonies, was bestowed on lord Carlisle.

In Ireland, the dissatisfaction created on the repeated refusals of the English parliament to listen to the claims of that country was now near a crisis. The destructive encumbrances on their trade became a matter of complaint

and serious concern to persons of all ranks, and some ill-timed expressions thrown out in the English parliament raised jealousies and suspicions that were no longer to be confined to timid muttering, nor which would allow of that forbearance which hitherto had marked the temper of the country. All hopes of redress being at an end, associations began to be formed in various parts, and at length throughout the whole kingdom, against the purchase of British manufactures. But these were not the only associations. Those of a military purpose were renewed, and, with sincere declarations of loyalty to the king and Great Britain, vast bodies of men, armed themselves at their own expense, and were trained in all the arts of war, and in a few months the neighbouring kingdoms were astonished to see an army not less than fifty thousand risen on a sudden, equipped at their own charges, and determined not only to defend their coast from foreign invasion (which at this time there was great reason to suspect was in meditation) but themselves against domestic usurpation. The British government beheld this revolution, as posterity will, with astonishment; not judging it prudent, however, to incense a people already armed, they rather wished to subject the force to the controul of the crown; but every attempt to do so being received with contempt, they sent over a supply of arms, and by this means gave a sanction to a measure which had been adopted without their approbation. The Irish emboldened by the awe with which their conduct inspired their neighbours, began now to speak their sentiments with freedom, denying the authority of the British parliament over them. Their parliament repealed the penal statutes against the papists as the English had done, and by this means the common interest was strengthened by the accession of all classes

and ranks of that persuasion. A free trade with all the world was the leading object. The spirit of freedom diffused itself even over their parliament in no inconsiderable degree. In their addresses to the throne, in consequence of their meeting before the middle of October, 1779, they declared that nothing but a free trade could save Ireland from ruin. The popular clamour too rose so high that their parliament found themselves under the necessity to pass a short money bill, for six months only, instead of two years, the usual time, in order to prevent the sudden prorogation of parliament.

While Ireland and England were thus divided by their reiterated complainings and accustomed discontents, Scotland was agitated by an event of a very singular nature. That country had hitherto maintained a most submissive acquiescence in the will of government, and had contributed most willingly to the carrying on of the war, and to no quarter did government look for discord less than to it. Yet a cause seemingly very trifling, kindled a flame of sedition in this country that seemed to threaten the character and interests of the nation at large in a very material degree. When the law in favour of the English Roman Catholics was passed, some Scotch members intimated an intention to bring in a bill for extending this toleration to the Roman Catholics in Scotland, confident that there prevailed in Scotland a liberality of sentiment that would take no umbrage at their proposal; the general assembly, by a majority of above an hundred, appeared to favour the intention; a bill accordingly was preparing. But although the common people wanted a spirit of actual resistance to the bill, there were men who thought it their duty to rouse in them an abhorrence of the doctrines, manners, and zeal of popery; pamphlets were published in great numbers; an

handful of obscure men formed themselves into a society, called the Protestant Association, and soon extended their influence over a great part of the country. Alarmed by that shew of inveterate hatred which appeared among the lower classes of people, the Roman Catholics, for their own safety, thought proper to intimate to some Scotch members a desire that nothing farther should be attempted towards their relief. This did not appease the populace; hand-bills were dispersed, inviting all who had any regard for the interests of religion, to assemble and destroy the meeting-houses of papists. No means being used to prevent them, a mob assembled on February 2d, 1780, and made their first attack on the popish chapel then recently erected in Chalmer's-close; this house they burnt to the ground, and another detachment marching to the old chapel in Blackfriars-Wynd, burnt it also. Not satisfied with the destruction of the chapels, they proceeded to the private houses of some persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion, where they committed every species of outrage, and next proceeded to the houses of such protestants as were deemed favourers of the intended bill; the principal of these were Dr. Robertson and Mr. Crosbie, an advocate, but the houses of both being defended, the mob were only able to shew their intentions by breaking the windows. During all this, the magistracy slept. Dragoons were sent for, and the duke of Buccleugh's soldiers were drawn up in the streets, but it was only to be spectators of what passed, and receive wounds and insults from the mob, without liberty to defend themselves. The lord provost published a truly singular proclamation, in which he not only assured the people that no repeal of the penal statutes should take place, but attributes the riots to the *apprehensions, fears, and distressed*

minds of well-meaning people; at the same time assuring them, that the magistrates would interpose to prevent or punish any *future disorders*. It is inconceivable how a matter of such importance could have been passed over in a manner so trifling, and crimes of the most atrocious nature imputed to *well-meaning people*. In parliament the conduct of the chief magistrate was severely handled. In Glasgow some rioting took place, in which a few private houses were destroyed, the loss of which was made up to the owners; in this last particular we believe Edinburgh followed their example, by levying contributions on the inhabitants. Before we leave this disagreeable subject, it may be necessary to observe, that many clergymen of that country exerted every laudable effort to check the intemperate spirit of their congregations, recommending an attention to the preservation of their own principles, as the best defence against the influence of popery; an advice which, if taken, would have prevented the disgrace which at this time fell on a people, who, under the mask of Protestantism, tolerated enormities disgraceful to Christianity.

On November 25, the parliament assembled. His majesty observed, that he met parliament at a time when they were called upon by every principle of duty, and every consideration of interest, to exert their united efforts in the support and defence of their country, attacked by an unjust and unprovoked war, and contending with one of the most dangerous confederacies that ever was formed against the crown and people of Great Britain. It was mentioned, that the designs and attempts of our enemies to invade this kingdom, had, by the blessing of Providence, been hitherto frustrated and disappointed. They still menaced us with great armaments and preparations; but his majesty trusted, we were, on our part, well

prepared to meet every attack and repel every insult.—“ I know,” added his majesty, “ the character of my brave people; the menaces of their enemies, and the approach of danger, have no effect on their minds, but to animate their courage, and to call forth that national spirit, which has so often checked and defeated the projects of ambition and injustice, and enabled the British fleets and armies to protect their own country, to vindicate their own rights, and at the same time to uphold and preserve the liberties of Europe from the restless and encroaching power of the house of Bourbon.” After observing that the state of Ireland had been attended to, it was recommended to consider what further benefits and advantages might be extended to that kingdom. The usual regret was expressed for the unavoidable increase of the supplies, and the conduct of the militia, and of the people in general, approved of. But no notice whatever was taken of the affairs of America, or the West Indies, or any part of the campaign.

The proposed amendments to the addresses, which in both houses, tended to a change of ministers and measures, produced great debates, in which, opposition delivered their sentiments with unusual confidence, and pointed their censures with great skill. They reprobated that ruinous system of government which had debilitated and disgraced this country, and which was particularly aggravated by its support from a secret combination. The influence of this combination was visible in every department of our executive services, and had altered the character both of our armies and navies, and the futility of our councils seemed to vie with the contempt bestowed by all the world on our arms. This system, with all its instruments, must be extirpated from any share in government before we could expect success,

or to retrieve our many losses. By means too of this influence, our best officers had been driven from the service, and a consequent discontent pervaded every part of our navy, to the neglect of which almost every misfortune of this country was to be traced. The dominion of the sea was lost, and a British fleet had been seen flying before that of the house of Bourbon, on the coast of England; no means were taken to prevent the junction of the French and Spanish fleets. Severe animadversions were thrown out against the conduct of ministry in the affair of the island of Jersey, and in the use made of the national militia. Ireland was mentioned as an additional instance of what we had to expect from the fatality which attended every part of the conduct of ministers. After particular mention of the state of our affairs in Africa, and the defenceless situation of our West India islands, it was declared, that nothing less than a total alteration in men and measures could prevent the final ruin of the nation.

In favour of ministry, it was said, “ That opposition ought to have been more definite in their charges, and to have founded motions on them separately; that the present single state of this country, its being without allies, was owing to the opinion and policy of other continental powers, which powers, nevertheless, would now see their interest in joining us to curb the ambition of the house of Bourbon; the retreat of our fleet up the Channel could not be called a flight; the commander expected a reinforcement, and the superiority of the enemy was so conspicuous, that it would have been madness to have risked an engagement. As for Ireland, as soon as her grievances appeared they would be alleviated; it was moreover alleged, that our situation was by no means so critical as gentlemen in opposition

had often represented it to be; that the address contained only expressions of duty and affection to the throne, but that the amendment implied the expulsion of all his majesty's ministers, without a trial, and if there were any guilty, both guilty and innocent were involved in one censure." The opposition were not satisfied with this vindication, but continued to lay to the charge of ministers every part of our misfortunes. The majorities for the rejection of the amendments were very great in both houses; some expressions dropped by Mr. Fox in his speech in the house of commons, were followed by a duel in Hyde-park, between that gentleman and Mr. Adam, another member. Mr. Fox behaved with great coolness. He was slightly wounded: this is not the last duel which we shall have occasion to mention as originating from parliamentary debates.

The first business of importance related to Ireland. This was introduced by lord Shelburne into the house of lords, who, after a long speech, in which he stated the neglect of ministers on every occasion where relief could have been granted, and the very extraordinary methods that had been fallen on by the Irish, moved, "That it was highly criminal in his majesty's ministers to have neglected taking effectual measures for the relief of the kingdom of Ireland, in consequence of the address of that house of the 11th of May, and of his majesty's most gracious answer; and to have suffered the discontents of that country to rise to such a height as evidently to endanger the constitutional connection between the two kingdoms, and to create new embarrassments to the public counsels through division and diffidence, in a moment when real unanimity, grounded upon mutual confidence and affection, is confessedly essential to the preservation of what is left of the British empire."

They who opposed this motion, contended, that the charges implied in the censure were without proof; that the censure included ministers who had been so short a time in office, as to be incapable of meriting blame; it was certainly necessary to know what orders ministers had received concerning the affairs of Ireland, and whether they had executed those. The papers before the house shewed that ministers had gone as far in the business as their office permitted, and beyond those lengths the legislature only could proceed; and, at once to stop the mouths of opposition, the noble minister in the lower house was in a few days to bring forward certain propositions for the relief of Ireland. But this defence did not satisfy the lords in opposition, who desired the ministers to turn their eyes to the present state of Ireland, and see whether that did not furnish incontestible proof that the relief of Ireland had been neglected, till at length, stung by contemptuous treatment, they had taken up arms in their own defence. The late president of the council, lord Gower, not a little strengthened the hands of opposition by an animated speech against the conduct of ministers, declaring, that he had seen such things pass in the council, as were sufficient to exclude a man of honour and conscience from a seat in it. To his lordship's pointed assertions no reply whatever was made, but, on the question being put, the motion was lost by the silent oratory of a majority amounting to more than two to one.

While lord North was preparing his plans of relief for Ireland, a motion, similar to the above, was made in the house of commons by the earl of Upper Ossory. In answer to this attack, the friends of ministry endeavoured to justify them, by throwing considerable blame on a gradual impolicy which had crept into the system of our trade laws, the prejudices in favour

of which were so strong as to produce petitions in abundance, and every mark of displeasure in England, at whatsoever time gentlemen had attempted to introduce modifications of them; of course parliament, in obeying the wills of their constituents, were doing their duty, and ministers were totally incompetent to act otherwise; and that, hitherto, ministers had not been able exactly to ascertain the wishes of the Irish, but as these were now rendered more plain, the matter could be brought to a regular discussion. The speeches of opposition on this motion were particularly pointed at the minister, whom they scrupled not to censure in the bitterest manner, as the creature of a secret combination, and who attended the house merely to collect his majority of three and two to one. As to the assertion that the complaints of Ireland were prior to the present administration, it was granted, but it was equally true that they had been increased seven-fold since the American war. Ireland, irritated by this accumulation of distress, and frequent neglect, had imitated the example set by America, for which ministers had to thank themselves. Her parliament lost its confidence in that of Britain, and, on the whole, the only particular in which she differed from America, was in not yet having proved a grave to British troops sent over for her subjugation; and this failure in the favourite system of government coercion could only arise from the horror which ministry now saw themselves environed by. To reply to this torrent of sarcasm was a difficult task; it was attempted, however, and the motion rejected by a stroke of wit, very common of late years, a large majority.

The expenditure of public money, during this war, was a frequent object of animadversion. Lord Shelburne, alarmed at the enormous increase of army extraordinaries, entered

on the subject with great spirit, directing his censure in a particular manner against contractors, to whom he imputed the greater part of the burthens under which the nation groaned. He asserted at the same time that the vast sums, not accounted for by the minister, plainly went to the support of a fatal system of undue influence and corruption, and concluded a speech replete with severe strictures on the conduct of ministry, by moving for some control on the great additions continually making to the national debt. A very few words from some lords in administration, who seemed at first unwilling to make any reply, were sufficient for the rejection of a motion which they said was grounded on assertion without proof. Lord Shelburne then moved for a committee for inquiring into the several parts of the public expenditure; this was agreed to, and the 8th of February appointed for the consideration of it. The duke of Richmond and lord Shelburne in the mean time received the formal thanks of the city of London. The same day on which the latter motion was made, Mr. Burke intimated his intention to introduce a bill of economy. Of this we need only mention here that his proposal met with great approbation from all sides of the house, the minister excepted, who preserved a profound silence during a conversation on Mr. Burke's intentions.

The aversion of the people to the present system of administration, and their sensibility to the horrors of a war obviously ruinous to the country in all its parts, became now very conspicuous. Associations were formed in different places, particularly at York, which took the lead. Not only reformation in the executive departments of the state were aimed at, but likewise a more equal representation in parliament. Petitions were drawn up from York, Middlesex, Chester, and many other counties,

praying parliament to take into consideration the impoverished state of the country, and endeavour to lighten the many heavy burdens of the people by some well-timed economy. Many of these petitions were signed by names that carried much weight and influence, although the legality of such meetings being doubted by many, retarded in some measure that universality of opinion which otherwise probably would have shewed itself. The great effects from trifling causes which America and Ireland exhibited, startled not a few, and the friends of administration endeavoured to improve this timidity. Their efforts, however, appeared to be very ineffectual, not even ministers themselves having so much influence in their counties as to prevent this general manifestation of public discontent. The petition from York was introduced in the house of commons on February 8th, 1780, by sir George Saville, who, in a long speech, explained the motives and import of it, and challenged the minister to an open avowal of his sentiments. The minister, more vexed than intimidated, said, he did not object to the petitions lying on the table, as usual, but thought that the threatening hints thrown out by the honourable gentleman were a bad accompaniment to a petition professedly founded on truth and justice, and he hoped would not influence them who were to judge of its merits. His lordship was proceeding to the consideration of the supplies, when Mr. Fox attacked him in a vein of strong irony, but desired his lordship to be in no alarm concerning the threats which had caused uneasiness. The people neither had arms, nor wanted any other than the constitutional means which the country afforded them for the answer of their petitions. The other petitions, presented soon after this, occasioned little or no debate. A petition from the merchants, planters, and others of Jamaica,

concerning the defenceless state of that island, was presented by Mr. Pennant. After a debate of an irregular kind, this petition was ordered to lie on the table.

On the 8th of February, lord Shelburne moved for a committee, consisting of members from both houses, possessing neither employment nor pension, to examine into the public expenditure, and the mode of accounting for the same. In his motion, he included some proposals of an economical tendency, and inveighed bitterly against that system of undue influence which had been substituted in the place of constitutional power. Administration turned a deaf ear to this motion; the house of lords, they thought, incompetent to institute an inquiry of the intended nature; they especially reprobated the idea of excluding from a share in the committee, those members who possessed places or pensions; such proposals of exclusion went to say, that those places rendered them liable to be turned from their duty. The motion was no better than a libel on the whole house. In the replies of the lords in opposition, ministers received more severe censures than they had been used to; yet when a division came to be proposed, there appeared 101 for rejecting the motion, and 55 for passing it. Of the latter 33 signed a protest against the rejection.

In the beginning of March, lord Shelburne endeavoured to draw from ministry some explanation of their conduct, relative to the dismissal of the marquis of Carmarthen and the earl of Pembroke, from the offices which these noblemen held; as no better reason appeared to the house, than their having voted in a particular question contrary to the will of administration. Such proceedings lord Shelburne looked upon to be the most dangerous extent of undue influence the country had ever met

with, and that parliament ought not to sit tamely under it. The principal argument which ministry and their friends used on this occasion, tended to establish the great impropriety of parliamentary interference in the dismissal of ministers, which was a privilege vested in the crown alone. Upon a division, the noble mover found himself in a minority of 39 to 92. His lordship, on this occasion, had made very free with the appointment of a Mr. Fullarton, originally a clerk, to the command of a regiment. This censure Mr. Fullarton construed into that species of dishonouring aspersion which a soldier ought not to bear with tameness, and after having made bitter complaints to the house of commons, of which he was a member, he required of lord Shelburne a meeting in Hyde-park. Lord Shelburne was wounded, but not dangerously, and the matter ended with the usual forms of duellist reconciliation. The same afternoon, March 22d, sir James Lowther introduced the matter into the house of commons, and reprobated this infringement on the freedom of debate. His observations were followed by reflections from both sides of the house; but the matter ended where it began. A very singular assertion was made by one of the ministers, *viz.*, that no man or set of men could prevent duelling; till, however, severe laws are put in practice against this savage custom, an indelible disgrace will rest with the British parliament.

There have been few sessions in which debates were carried to lengths so great, or attended with so little success in national improvement, as in this. Opposition, indeed, on some occasions had greater numbers than usual, and the contractors' bill, when introduced, passed through the house of commons, although it was afterwards rejected in the

other. But still the friends of ministry gave them a support which was not likely soon to fail. The only arguments of importance which we are now to collect in a brief point of view, are concerning the petitions which amounted to about forty. April the 6th was appointed for the consideration of them. Mr. Dunning, who opened the business, observed that the main tendency of all these petitions, was to interrupt the present rapid increase of the unconstitutional influence of the crown; and an economical expenditure of the public money. After expatiating at great length, and perspicuity, learning and shrewdness, on the various means used by some members to effect the purposes of these petitions, particularly Mr. Burke's bill, colonel Barre's motion for a committee of accounts, sir George Saville's motion, and others, he moved, "That the influence of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished." The objections of ministry to this were, that it was an abstract proposition, not supported by facts, and the lord advocate of Scotland moved, that it should be amended thus, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is now necessary to declare, that the influence of the crown is increased, &c." The motion so amended was carried by Mr. Dunning; the numbers being 283 who supported it, to 215 who voted against it. This second motion was, "That it is competent to this house to examine into, and correct abuses in the expenditure of the civil list revenues, as well as in every other branch of the public revenue, whenever it shall seem expedient to the wisdom of this house so to do." It being twelve o'clock at night, the minister was for adjourning, but that not being attended to, he found himself still more disappointed by the the motion being carried without a division. Mr. Townsend moved. "That it is the opinion

of this committee, that it is the duty of this house to provide as far as may be, an immediate and effectual redress of the abuses complained of in the petitions presented to this house." This being likewise agreed to, Mr. Fox endeavoured to push the victory home, by moving, that the resolutions should be immediately reported, which was accordingly done, and completed the triumph of opposition over ministry, an event which was received with joy over a great part of the kingdom. Two other resolutions, moved on April the 10th by Mr. Dunning, were carried by his party; but this success did not last long.

We come now to relate the progress of a civil commotion, the most extraordinary and alarming that had happened in England since the memorable days of Wat Tyler. It will be necessary to be particular in the origin, as well as detail, of this affair, and the best authorities have been consulted; although, in a period of general confusion and alarm, it is not easy to separate the facts which really happened, from the various reports which arose from the terror of imagination.

Several meetings had taken place, in the month of May, in London, of persons styling themselves the Protestant Association; of which lord George Gordon, brother to the duke of Gordon, and a member of parliament, became president. The object of their association was, professedly, to obtain the repeal of an act which had been lately passed, for relieving his majesty's subjects, professing the Roman catholic religion, from certain penalties and disabilities imposed upon them in the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of king William III. The members of the association professed great apprehensions of the increase of popery, and employed the utmost pains to procure subscriptions to a petition to parliament for a repeal of

the act in favour of the papists. It was reported that more than one hundred thousand persons had signed the petition. It was also resolved, in order to give their petition the greater weight, that the association should go in procession to the house of commons on the day that it was presented. To promote this scheme, the following advertisement was published:—"Protestant Association. Whereas no hall in London can contain forty thousand persons, Resolved, that this association do meet on Friday next in St. George's Fields, at ten o'clock in the morning, to consider of the most prudent and respectful manner of attending their petition, which will be presented the same day to the house of commons. Resolved, for the sake of good order and regularity, that this association, in coming to the ground, do separate themselves into four distinct divisions, viz. the London division, the Westminster division, the Southwark division, and the Scotch division. Resolved, that the London division do take place upon the right of the ground towards Southwark, the Westminster division second, the Southwark division third, and the Scotch division upon the left, all wearing blue cockades, to distinguish themselves from the papists, and those who approve of the late act in favour of popery. Resolved, that the magistrates of London, Westminster, and Southwark, are requested to attend; that their presence may overawe and control any riotous or evil-minded persons, who may wish to disturb the legal and peaceable deportment of his majesty's protestant subjects. By order of the Association, G. Gordon, president. London, May 29."

Of what number this association consisted cannot now be ascertained; but on the day appointed, Friday, June 2d, a vast concourse of people assembled, from all parts of the city

and suburbs, in St. George's-fields, where they were joined about eleven o'clock, by lord George Gordon. On his arrival, they formed a ring round him; in which situation he made a short speech to them, strongly recommending a peaceable deportment and behaviour, and that in this disposition they should proceed to the house with their petition. A hand-bill was likewise distributed, inculcating the same temper. During the speech made by his lordship, the crowd, in their desire of hearing and seeing, pressed so closely around him, that, partly with the heat of the day, and partly with the largeness of their number, his lordship was near being suffocated. The throng being then removed to a little farther distance, his lordship marched them in four different bodies, according to their four divisions of London, Westminster, Southwark, and Scotland, three or four times round the fields; after which he left them, proceeded in his carriage over Westminster-bridge to the house of commons, in order to be at hand there, to present the petition when brought up. The committee of the association, with several other members of the society, went the same way. The rest, supposed to amount to fifty thousand, though such calculations are seldom to be depended upon, took their route over London-bridge, marching in tolerable order, and very quietly, through Cornhill, Cheap-side, &c., towards Westminster, following their respective banners, on which were written the names of the divisions, with the words "No Popery," and other labels, expressive of the business of the day. Each petitioner also wore a blue cockade in his hat, some of which were ornamented with gold and silver; and many likewise had printed labels affixed to them, of the same tenour with those on the banner. At the head of the Scotch division, a Highlander marched in his country dress, with

his sword drawn, and followed by a pair of bagpipes. In St. George's-fields, previous to the march, a tailor was employed to tack together the different skins, signed by the petitioners, composing a very large roll, which was carried on a man's head.

In this manner they marched on, gathering every where as they went; and when they came to Charing-cross were joined by fresh numbers, some on horseback and in coaches, who proceeded with them to the house. As they passed by the churches, they gave them three cheers. The Admiralty was also saluted by them as they passed; and by the time they came to New Palace-yard, the company which passed over Westminster-bridge having joined them, their numbers were now so large, that Old Palace-yard, with Westminster-hall, and all the avenues about both houses of parliament, were entirely filled with them.

In this situation they waited the arrival of the members of both houses, many of whom were very roughly treated by them in their way to the house. Among these, their principal vengeance seems to have fallen upon the peers, both spiritual and temporal, particularly on the archbishop of York, whose carriage they stopped, and greatly insulted him; the lord president, whom they seized, jostled, and kicked on the legs; lord Mansfield, whom they stopped, and reviled to his face; lord Stormont, whose carriage they took possession of for nearly half an hour, getting upon the box and wheels, taking great liberties with his lordship's person; and they might not, perhaps, even then have parted with his lordship, had not a gentleman jumped into the carriage, and prevailed upon the populace to desist. The duke of Northumberland was treated rather favourably, but lost his watch. Lord Boston was severely handled by them, and the bishop of Litchfield

met with nearly the like treatment. Besides these, the lords Halsborough and Townsend, (who went together in the same carriage,) with lord Willoughby de Broke, and lord Ashburnham, were very roughly handled; the two former losing their bags, and the two latter being buffeted about for some time. Lord St. John and lord Dudley received likewise strong marks of the rioters' resentment. The bishop of Lincoln (Thurlow) hardly escaped with his life: the humanity of Mr. Atkinson, an attorney, in Westminster, admitted his lordship into his house, at the risk of his property and life; and the bishop, in disguise, got away over the tops of the houses. The commons fared better individually; though collectively they were justly under still greater apprehensions than the lords. But Mr. Strahan and Welbore Ellis experienced much rough treatment; the former had his carriage considerably damaged, and Mr. Ellis was pursued to the Guildhall, Westminster, the windows of which the populace broke in their fury, and then getting at the object of their pursuit, treated him with much roughness. Lord Trentham likewise received a considerable degree of insult, and had the front glass of his vis-a-vis broken. When Lord North made his appearance, it was with difficulty he found his way to the commons, being stopped on the stair-case by several of the members of the association. Lord George Germaine, too, on his arrival, was much hissed and groaned at, and porter thrown into his face. The mob twice attempted to force their way into the house of commons; and it was with difficulty the members got either in or out. They attempted also the house of lords; but by the excellent management of sir Francis Molyneux, and the exertions of the doorkeepers, were kept out. However they filled the lobby of the house of commons, and pressed

so violently against the door, that the members might truly be said to be blocked up. Most part of the day was spent in that house in debates relative to the mob; but when the house had regained some degree of order, lord George Gordon introduced his petition, which he said was signed by near an hundred and twenty thousand protestant subjects, "praying the repeal of the act of the last session in favour of the Roman Catholics," and moved to have the said petition brought up. Mr. Alderman Bull seconded his motion, and leave was given accordingly. In the interim, while this business was in agitation, lord George was frequently called upon to disperse his followers. After several addresses, which have been variously reported, and are indeed of little consequence, he advised them to depart peaceably, and rely upon the goodness of their gracious king, who, now that he knew the desires of his people, would be ready to meet their wishes. With this assurance, as soon as the house broke up, most of them dispersed; and the guards, who had been sent for, and had arrived, were in a short time after ordered home.

We have been thus particular in detailing the conduct of lord George Gordon's tumultuous followers, because these facts will throw considerable light on the events which followed; for though order and tranquillity were re-established in this part of the town, it was far otherwise elsewhere. The mob paraded off in different divisions from Palace-yard, and some of them went to the Romish chapel in Duke-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and others to that of Warwick-street, Golden-square; where, finding little or no opposition, they pulled down the altars, ornaments, and furniture, and committed the whole to the flames. A party of the guards came too late to prevent this mischief, but thirteen of the rioters were taken; and the rest, on

the appearance of the military, instantly dispersed. The day following passed in tolerable quietness; but on Sunday in the afternoon the mob met at Moorfields, and as it were in an instant, collected a body of several thousands, who, on the cry of "No papists! Root out popery!" presently attacked the popish chapel in Rope-maker's-alley, the inside of which they totally demolished, and brought the altar, images, pictures, seats, and every moveable, into the street, where they committed them to the flames. About half after nine a party of the guards arrived, when the mob immediately began to disperse. Some few accidents happened on the approach of the military, but no person was this night killed by the soldiers. Encouraged by this lenity, they began on the following day to grow more daring and desperate. Early on the Monday they demolished the school-house, and three dwelling-houses in Rope-maker's-alley, belonging to the priests, with a valuable library of books. They now threatened the destruction of all who should oppose them; and divided into different parties, and for different purposes. One party shewed itself before lord George Gordon's, in Welbeck-street; another party went in triumph to Virginia-street, Wapping; a third directed their march to Nightingale-lane, East-Smithfield; and, while the first party gutted (as their term was) the house of the excellent sir George Saville, on pretence of his having brought in the obnoxious bill, and those of Mr. Rainsforth, of Stanhope-street, and Mr. Maberly, of Little Queen-street, for giving evidence against the rioters on Saturday, the other parties destroyed the popish chapels in their respective routes, insulted the Catholics, plundered their houses, and brought out and set fire to their furniture. This day a proclamation was issued, offering five hundred pounds reward for the discovery

of the persons concerned in destroying the Sardinian and Bavarian chapels. This day, also, the rioters apprehended on Saturday were re-examined, and five of the most active committed to Newgate; to which gaol they were escorted by a party of guards, who, on their return, were pelted by the rioters; but such was the humanity of their commanding-officer, that he restrained his men from firing upon them, as they appeared to him wholly unarmed. In vain had a resolution of the Protestant Association been circulated in the morning, requesting all true Protestants to shew their attachment to their best interest, by a legal and peaceable deportment. It was not an attention to the united prayers of the Protestant petition that the ringleaders now had in view; yet were those seemingly tumultuous persons so cautious, that they had scouts upon the watch in all the avenues, and on the first intimation of the approaching military, the whole body instantly vanished, as if by enchantment. This, however, is the only instance of any thing like concert or design among them; in all other respects, they were a disorderly multitude, whose object was general mischief, without any fixed plan. During all this time, the lords, commons, magistrates, and persons in power of every denomination, in the great and populous cities of London and Westminster, seemed to be panic struck; so that no proper measures had hitherto been adopted for suppressing these alarming riots.

On Tuesday, a day which had been appointed to take the Protestant petition into farther consideration by parliament, the multitude that assembled about the parliament-house was no less numerous than that which surrounded it on the preceding Friday. They did not, as before, regularly assemble in St. George's-fields, but came in small parties, from different

places. At first they seemed orderly, but apparently resolute. In the course of the afternoon more parties arrived, and they began by degrees to be more tumultuous. Lord Sandwich, however, was the only person who suffered violence, and he was instantly rescued by colonel Smith; who, with a party of horse, escorted him back to the Admiralty, from whence he wrote to lord Mansfield, stating his case. On reading his letter in the house of peers, lord Ravensworth expressed his indignation that the house should still be in a situation so truly mortifying, that their lordships could not, without personal danger, take their seats in that house. He was followed by lord Denbigh, who complained of the insults himself had suffered, and objected to the sitting of the house under such circumstances. In this he was supported by lord Radnor. The earl of Hillsborough begged of the noble lords to point out any other mode of proceeding, for the security of their lordships' persons, than that taken by his majesty's ministers; and lord Bathurst said, that every power of the constitution had been employed, and would continue to be employed, to secure the freedom of their deliberations; but, notwithstanding these assurances, the house soon broke up, and adjourned to Thursday.

In the house of commons they went still farther, and declared that no act of theirs could be legal while the house was beset with a military force, and under apprehensions from the daring spirit of the people; yet some resolutions to the following purport were agreed to: 1. That it was a high and dangerous breach of the privilege of parliament, to insult or attack members coming to attend their duty in that house. 2. That a committee be appointed to inquire into the outrages, and discover the authors. 3. That his majesty's attorney-gene-

ral be ordered to prosecute the persons already in custody, charged with destroying the houses and chapels of foreign ambassadors. 4. That compensation be made to the sufferers. These resolutions passed unanimously. During the sitting of the house an attack had been made on the residence of lord North, in Downing-street; but a party of light horse went and repulsed the assailants. On the rising of the house, lord George Gordon repaired to the corner of Bridge-street, informing the populace what had been done, and advised them to depart quietly. In return, they unharnessed his horses, and drew him in triumph, together with sir Philip Jennings Clerke, who had accompanied him, and who had applied to him for protection, to the house of alderman Bull. While a party of the rioters were thus employed, justice Hyde, with a party of the guards, endeavoured to disperse the rest. At first they pressed hard upon the guards; but the guards, in their turn, soon advanced upon them, and rode furiously among them. They did not attempt again to face the military.

In the evening, about seven o'clock, the rioters resenting the activity of justice Hyde, a detached party attacked his house, in Lisle-street, stripped it of the furniture, and burnt it before his door. A party of the guards, as usual, arrived too late; the mischief was done, and the rioters fled. Newgate was now their next concern, and to release their confined associates the object they had then in view. Like regular assailants, they did not proceed to storm before they offered terms; they called upon the keeper to release their comrades, as the only means to save his mansion. This he peremptorily refused to do; but dreading what would happen, he went to the sheriffs, to know their pleasure. In cases of emergency, delays are dangerous; while the magistrates were

affecting to deliberate on a matter which did not require a moment's thought, the gaol was set on fire, and on his return Mr. Akerman found his house in flames. A party of constables, nearly to the number of an hundred, came to his assistance; these the rioters suffered to pass, till they were entirely encircled, and then attacked them with great fury, broke their staves, and converted them into brands, which were hurled about wherever the fire appeared but faintly kindled. It is scarcely to be believed with what celerity a gaol, which to a common observer appeared to be built with nothing that would burn, was destroyed by the flames; nor is it less astonishing, that, from a prison thus in flames, a miserable crew of felons in irons, and a company of confined debtors, to the number, in the whole, of more than three hundred, could all be liberated as it were by magic, amidst flames and firebrands, without the loss of a single life; some from the gloomy cells of darkness, in which the devoted victims to public justice were confined, and others from inner apartments, to which the access in tranquil times was both intricate and difficult. These liberated felons instantly went to Bow-street, where they broke into and demolished the public office, and sir John Fielding's dwelling-house adjoining. The justice, who had committed most of them, appeared to them the first object of vengeance.

The mob, not contented with these devastations, repaired to the house of the venerable lord Mansfield, in Bloomsbury-square. A detachment of the guards being sent for, the civil magistrate gave directions to fire on the rioters, by which some were killed, and others wounded; but, as was invariably the case hitherto, not till they had destroyed by fire his lordship's furniture, mortgages, books and

manuscripts; after which they got at the liquors, and intoxicated themselves with them to the highest degree; they then set fire to the house, and entirely destroyed it. A large body of the mob then set off to destroy his lordship's fine seat at Caen-wood; but happily, on their arrival there, they found a large body of the military had got possession of it, about half an hour before them; on which they retired, without making any attempt. Another party of the mob entered a pawnbroker's in Golden-lane, gutted the house, and burnt all the furniture and goods. The house of a Mr. Lyon, in Bunhill-row, shared the same fate. In Clerkenwell, the two prisons were set open, and all the prisoners released. In Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, the house of justice Coxe was destroyed. These and many other outrages, committed in various parts of the town closed the terrible scene of this night's riots.

Next day, the 7th, the violence of the populace, instead of diminishing, or being glutted with the destruction, terror, and consternation they had already spread, seemed to be considerably increased; which is not much to be wondered at, when we consider, that all the prisoners in Newgate, Clerkenwell-bridewell, and New-prison, were let loose on the terrified inhabitants of the thunder-struck metropolis. Some even had the audacity to go into public-houses and call for what provisions and drink they thought proper, without paying for any, nor dared the affrighted publicans ask for payment; on the contrary, they thought themselves happy that they had not their houses pulled down. Others, still more daring, even knocked at the doors of private houses at noon-day, and extorted contribution from the inhabitants. Numbers of the mob paraded early in the morning, with blue cockades in their hats: all

the hackney-coachmen were obliged to wear the same token, and "No Ropery" was written upon several parts of almost every house in the city: in some streets they were even obliged to hang blue flags and ribbons out of the windows.

In the borough of Southwark great outrages were also committed: some popish chapels, and other buildings, in various parts, were burnt particularly about Kent-street and its environs. An attempt was likewise made to fire the Marshalsea; but here the military soon repelled the rioters; and many of the substantial inhabitants of the borough having armed themselves, sallied forth upon a large body of the rioters in Tooley-street, killed and wounded several, took others prisoners, and put the rest to flight; but the King's-bench prison, with three houses adjoining, a tavern, and the New-bridewell, were set on fire, and almost entirely destroyed. As soon as the day was drawing to a close, one of the most awful and dreadful spectacles this country ever beheld, was exhibited. The mob had not only declared their resolution to fire the prisons, and some private houses, but had avowed their intention to destroy the Bank, Gray's Inn, the Temple, Lincoln's Inn, the grand arsenal at Woolwich, and the royal palaces. An universal stupor had seized the minds of men; they looked at one another, and waited with a resigned consternation for the events which were to follow. Nothing could convey a more awful idea of the mischief which was dreaded, than the strong guard which was placed in the Royal Exchange for the protection of the Bank; as nothing perhaps could have equalled the national desolation, had the purposes of the insurgents upon this place succeeded; and an attack was actually made upon it. Soldiers were distributed at Guildhall, in the inns of court, in almost every place tenable

as a fortification, and in some private houses; and the cannon was disposed to the best advantage in the Park.

With minds thus predisposed to terror by so many objects of devastation, and in a city which but a few days before enjoyed the most perfect tranquillity, let our readers judge what the inhabitants felt, when they beheld, at the same instant of time, the flames ascending and rolling in vast and voluminous clouds from the King's-bench and Fleet prisons, from New-bridewell, from the toll-gates on Blackfriars-bridge, from houses in every part of the town, and particularly from the bottom and middle of Holborn, where the conflagration was horrible beyond description. The houses that were first set on fire at this last-mentioned place, both belonged to Mr. Langdale, an eminent distiller, and contained immense quantities of spirituous liquors. It is easy to conceive what fury these would add to the flames; but to form an adequate idea of the distresses of the neighbouring inhabitants, or indeed of the inhabitants in every part of the city, is not so easy. Men, women, and children, were running up and down with beds, glasses, bundles, or whatever they wished most to preserve. In streets where there were no fires, numbers were removing their goods and effects at midnight. The shouts of the rioters were heard at one instant, and at the next the dreadful report of the soldiers' musquets, as if firing in platoons, and at various places: in short, every thing that could impress the mind with ideas of universal anarchy and approaching desolation, seemed to be accumulating. Sleep and rest were impracticable; the streets were swarming with people; and uproar, confusion, and terror, reigned in every part.

On the morning of the 7th of June, his majesty assisted in person in council. The great

question was there discussed on which hinged the protection and preservation of the capital—a question respecting which the first legal characters were divided, and on which lord Mansfield himself was with reason accused of never having clearly expressed his opinion up to that time. Doubts existed whether persons riotously collected together, and committing outrages and infractions of the peace, however great, might legally be fired on by the military power, without staying previously to read the riot act. Lord Bathurst, president of the council, and sir Fletcher Norton, speaker of the house of commons, who were both present, on being appealed to for their opinions, declared that “a soldier was not less a citizen because he was a soldier, and consequently that he might repel force by force.” But no minister would sign the order for the purpose. In this emergency when every moment was precious, Mr. Wedderburn, afterwards successively raised to the dignity of a baron, and of an earl of Great Britain, who was then attorney-general, having been called in to the council-table, and ordered by the king to deliver his official opinion on the point, stated in the most precise terms, that any such assemblage might be dispersed by military force, without waiting for forms, or reading the act in question. “Is that your declaration of the law, as attorney-general?” said the king. Wedderburn answering decidedly in the affirmative, “Then so let it be done,” rejoined his majesty. The attorney-general drew up the order immediately, which the king himself signed, and on which lord Amherst acted the same evening; the complete suppression of the riots followed in the course of a few hours.

Previous to this decision of the council, his majesty, during the two nights of the riots, sat up with several general officers in the queen’s riding-house, whence messengers were con-

stantly despatched to observe the motions of the mob. Between three and four thousand troops were in the queen’s gardens, and surrounded Buckingham-house. During the first night the alarm was so sudden, that no straw could be got for the troops to rest themselves on; which being told his majesty, he, accompanied with one or two officers, went through the ranks, telling them, “My lads, my crown cannot purchase you straw to-night, but depend upon it, I have given orders that a sufficiency shall be here to-morrow morning; as a substitute for the straw, my servants will instantly serve you with a good allowance of wine and spirits, to make your situation as comfortable as possible; and I shall keep you company myself until morning.” The king did so, walking mostly in the garden, sometimes visiting the queen and children in the palace, and receiving all messages in the riding-house, it being, in a manner, head-quarters. When his majesty was told that part of the mob was attempting to get into St. James’s, and to the Bank, he forbade the soldiers to fire, but to keep off the rioters with their bayonets; the mob, in consequence of that, were so daring as to take hold of the bayonets and shake them, defying the soldiers to fire or hurt them; however, the means were effectual, as nothing further was attempted on the part of the rioters in that quarter.

An order was accordingly issued immediately by authority of the king in council, “for the military to act without waiting for directions from the civil magistrates, and to use force for dispelling the illegal and tumultuous assemblies of the people.” Accordingly, many of the rioters were killed, in consequence of the exertions of the military, in different parts of the town. The Northumberland and Surrey militia were this evening particularly active in the suppression of the riots; as was also the

London Military Association. A court of common-council was held late in the evening, when the lord mayor acquainted them, that the cause of calling them together was the tumults that existed in the city, and desired to have their advice. Several letters from the secretaries of state were read. The court unanimously came to the following resolutions: That the sheriffs of London be desired to raise the *posse comitatus* immediately, and to pursue, with the lord mayor, and other magistrates of the city, the most effectual legal means for restoring the public peace; that the thanks of the court be given to the Military Association, for the offer of their services to restore the peace of the city, and that it be recommended to the sheriffs of this city to accept their offer; that the sheriffs of London be requested to take the military under their command, and endeavour particularly to protect the Mansion-house, Guildhall, Bank of England, or any other place that is in danger; and, that the thanks of this court be given to the officers of the militia of the city of London, for the voluntary offer of their services, and that they be requested to put themselves under the direction of the sheriffs of London. A royal proclamation was also issued, charging and exhorting all his majesty's loving subjects to keep themselves quietly within their respective dwellings; and declaring that effectual orders had been given for an immediate exertion of the military force, in order to suppress the riots.

The people of Southwark had the good sense and gratitude to appreciate the king's spirited interference on this occasion; and presented an address on the 13th of June, thanking him for his seasonable interposition by sending a military force to their relief; but judge Gould appears to have viewed the affair in a very different light; for, when his majesty sent a

message during the height of the riots to each of the twelve judges, offering them the protection of the military, that learned gentleman returned for answer, that he had grown old under the protection of the English laws; that he was persuaded, however some persons might be misled, the people in general loved and respected the laws; and so great was his attachment to them, that he would rather die under them, than live under the protection of any other laws.

Necessity at length produced something like exertion. The guards having been found insufficient in number to defend the various parts of the metropolis, all the troops and militia within thirty miles were sent for, and on the eighth, as well as the preceding day, several corps arrived. Before the end of the week there were at least twenty thousand troops in London; who were stationed as they came in, at the different places supposed to be in most danger, the Bank, Exchange, Post-office, Guildhall, inns of court, &c., and in many private houses. A strong guard was stationed at Buckingham-house, for the protection of his majesty. The guards were encamped in St. James's-park, and the marching regiments and militia in Hyde-park. Several of the rioters were taken up in different places. Many were found drunk upon the ruins of Mr. Langdale's house, and at Newgate, with the liquors found at both places; others were found secreted in several obscure parts. The exertions of the military by degrees completely quelled these alarming riots; though not till many lives had been lost. The arrival of such large bodies of troops in the metropolis and its neighbourhood, continued to keep things quiet, and tranquillity was once more restored. The number of the rioters killed was nearly three hundred. Many were afterwards tried, and executed in various parts

of the town, near the scenes of their respective depredations. Lord George Gordon was committed to the Tower on a charge of high treason ; of which, however, he was acquitted on his trial, the following winter.

The minuteness with which we have recorded the whole of this extraordinary affair will not be without its use, if from this account posterity learns to avoid the causes which in this case led nearly to the destruction of the metropolis. We have to observe, in the first place, that the leading members of the Protestant Association took great pains to demonstrate that their society had no concern in the riots ; and this they attempted, by disavowing the conduct of the rioters, and by declaring, that in all the subsequent trials, it was not proved that any one of the rioters was among the association in St. George's-fields : but these excuses are made with a very bad grace, when we call to mind the dangerous and personal insults offered to the members of both houses of parliament, on the days this association assembled ; and, when we recollect that the depredations which followed were directed, at first, against the chapels and houses of the Roman Catholics. All this was expressly in the true spirit of intolerance and persecution, which dictated their opposition to the obnoxious act of parliament. With respect to the assertion that no one of the rioters was a member of the association, it is at least liable to suspicion. Men who assembled to awe the deliberations of parliament, and personally to insult the commons and lords, were rioters in every sense of the word, and guilty of a very high crime. The right of individuals to petition parliament is indisputable ; but it was not in the very nature of things, that so immense a concourse of people could be assembled without laying the foundation for a riotous temper and disposition. The order of

our accounts sufficiently shews, that whatever the intention of the well-disposed members of this association might be, their assembling directly and immediately produced the riots, for which there was at first no other pretext than a dread and abhorrence of popery.

It may be remarked also, how dangerous it is to assemble a great concourse of people, low, illiterate, and tumultuous, upon any pretence. This mob at first directed their hostilities against the Roman Catholics : here was something like a principle, though a very bad one ; but no sooner had their evil dispositions (and that disposition must be evil that leads to persecution) been glutted with these first objects of their indignation, than they began to destroy all property, and endanger all persons, in defiance of every constituted authority. How this mob, however, came to acquire such an ascendancy, is a matter of astonishment. They were, it is very remarkable, always unarmed, unless with weapons proper for the destruction of houses, and they always fled on the appearance of the military ; but that appearance, the reader may have observed, was never made till too late. The city magistrates were uncommonly remiss ; and the guards, which could have soon quelled the most dangerous of these riots, had no authority, until it became necessary to put the whole city under military discipline. It has been remarked, that some of the common people probably engaged with more readiness in the riots, from the unpopularity of the administration, at least among persons of that class ; and, perhaps, so much violence and disorder could not have happened under any administration which had been universally respected by the common people.

On June the 19th, the parliament was opened by a speech from the throne, in which his majesty observed, that the outrages committed by

bands of desperate and abandoned men, in various parts of this metropolis, broke forth with violence into acts of felony and treason, had so far overborne all civil authority, and threatened so directly the subversion of all legal power, the destruction of property, and the confusion of every order in the state, that his majesty found himself obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to his people, to suppress in every part those rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the public safety, by the most effectual and immediate application of the force intrusted to him by parliament. They were informed, that his majesty had directed copies of the proclamations issued upon that occasion, to be laid before them; that proper orders had been given for bringing the authors and abettors of these insurrections, and the perpetrators of such criminal acts, to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment as the laws of their country prescribed, and as the vindication of public justice demanded. His majesty concluded with renewing his solemn assurances, that he had no other object but to make the laws of the realm, and the principles of an excellent constitution in church and state, the rule and measure of his conduct; and that he should ever consider it as the first duty of his station and the chief glory of his reign, to maintain and preserve the established religion of these kingdoms, and, to the best of his power, to secure and to perpetuate the rights and liberties of his people.

The addresses, in answer to this speech, were carried without opposition. It was remarked, however, that the dreadful height to which these riots had proceeded, from the most insignificant beginnings, was entirely owing to neglect, in not calling forth the civil power at the first appearances. Next day, in a committee of the whole house, it was determined that no repeal

should take place of the act in favour of the Roman catholics, as the grievances said to arise from it were imaginary; the following resolutions were moved for and agreed to, in order to set the conduct of parliament in a fair light, and to undeceive the ill-informed but well-meaning part of the petitioners: "That the effect and operation of the act passed in the 18th of his present majesty, for relieving his subjects professing the popish religion from certain penalties and disabilities, imposed on them by an act of the 11th and 12th of William III. have been misrepresented and misunderstood. That the said act of the 18th of his present majesty, does not repeal or alter, or in any manner invalidate or render ineffectual, the several statutes made to prohibit the exercise of the popish religion, previous to the statute of the 11th and 12th of William III. That no ecclesiastical or spiritual jurisdiction or authority is given, by the said act, to the Pope, or the see of Rome. That this house does, and ever will, watch over the interests of the protestant religion with the most unremitting attention; and that all attempts to seduce the youth of this kingdom from the established church to popery, are highly criminal according to the laws in force, and are a proper subject of further regulation. And, that all endeavours to disquiet the minds of the people, by misrepresenting the said act of the 18th year of the reign of his present majesty, as inconsistent with the safety, or irreconcilable to the principles of the protestant religion, have a manifest tendency to disturb the public peace, to break the union necessary at this time, to bring dishonour on the national character, to discredit the protestant religion in the eyes of other nations, and to furnish occasion for the renewal of the persecution of our protestant brethren in other countries."

Further to quiet the minds of the nation, a bill was passed in the house of commons, "for affording security to the protestant religion from any encroachments of popery, by more effectually restraining papists, or persons professing the popish religion, from teaching, or taking upon themselves the education or government of the children of protestants." The majority of the house of peers seemed to favour this bill, but some of them considered it as unworthy of that house to pass a bill forced upon them by outrage. In order to set it aside a motion was made and carried, that it should be read a third time on that day week; and, as the prorogation took place before that time, this motion amounted to a total rejection. In the same house, a matter of a peculiar cast was introduced by the duke of Richmond. During the riots, lord Amherst had written a letter to colonel Twisleton, who commanded the military forces in the city of London, ordering him to disarm all persons who did not belong to the militia, nor bore arms under the royal authority. The duke of Richmond moved, that all the letters which had passed on this occasion should be read, together with a plan of an association by the lord-mayor, and the declaration of rights in the 2d of William and Mary. He then proposed the following resolution: "That the letter of Jeffery lord Amherst, dated the 13th of June, to colonel Twisleton, then commanding an armed force in the city of London, in which he orders him to disarm the inhabitants, who had armed themselves for the defence of their lives and properties, and likewise to detain their arms, contained an unwarrantable command to deprive the citizens of their legal property, was expressly contrary to the fundamental principles of the constitution, and a violation of one of their most sacred rights, as declared in the 2d of William and

Mary, that every protestant subject of this empire is entitled to carry arms in his own defence." The other members, on the side of opposition, maintained that this was a matter of serious consequence, and that the letter in question ought not to be allowed to descend to posterity, without some mark of disapprobation. The ministry replied, that although Englishmen had a right to arm in defence of themselves, their property, or even that of their neighbours, yet allowing them to assemble in bodies might be attended with the worst of consequences. They did not, in direct terms, approve the letter written by lord Amherst, but they believed it written in a hurry, and by an officer whose constant employment in the field kept him ignorant of all the privileges of the bill of rights. The question, accordingly, was rejected without a division. An attempt of the same kind, made in the house of commons, was attended with similar success.

At length this tedious session, this war of words, drew to a close. On Saturday, July the 8th, his majesty closed it with a speech, in which he expressed his satisfaction that he was able to determine this long session of parliament, that they might be at liberty to return to their several counties, and attend to their private affairs, after so laborious a discharge of their duty in the public service. His majesty embraced this opportunity of expressing his sincere acknowledgments of the fresh proofs they had given him of their affectionate zeal for the support of his government, and of their just estimation of the real and permanent interests of their country. Their magnanimity and perseverance in the prosecution of this just and necessary war, had enabled him to make such exertions, as would, he trusted, by the assistance of Divine Providence, disappoint the violent and unjust designs of his enemies,

and bring them to listen to equitable and honourable terms of peace. These exertions had already been attended with success by sea and land; and the late important and prosperous turn of affairs in North America, afforded the fairest prospect of the returning loyalty and affection of his subjects in the colonies, and of their happy re-union with their parent country. The commons were thanked for the large and ample supplies which they had so cheerfully granted, and for the confidence they reposed in his majesty. A promise was made, that no attention should be wanting, on his part, to render them effectual, and to see them faithfully applied. His majesty concluded with earnestly recommending to both houses to assist him, by their influence and authority, in their several counties, as they had by their unanimous support in parliament, in guarding the peace of the kingdom from future disturbances, and watching over the public safety; that they should make his people sensible of the happiness they enjoy, and the distinguished advantages they derived from our excellent constitution, both in church and state, warn them of the hazard of innovation, and point out to them the fatal consequences of such commotions as have already been excited. "Let it be your care," added his majesty, "to impress on their minds this important truth, that rebellious insurrections, to resist or to reform the laws, must end either in the destruction of the persons who make the attempt, or in the subversion of our free and happy constitution."

The dissatisfaction of the nation at the long continuance of the war, united with the spirited efforts of the old aristocracy of the country, and seconded by forcible petitions for a redress of grievances, had produced a momentary gleam in favour of liberty; and the success of

Mr. Dunning's motion on the sixth of April, elevated the hopes of those who had long wished a diminution of that influence, which they conceived had been exerted so much to the detriment of the nation; but the arrangements of the minister during the recess of parliament, which took place on the illness of the speaker, defeated for the time, any further operation. These were almost the last successful efforts made in the house of commons in favour of the people. After this, the spirit of the nation, as well as of the aristocracy, appears, to have sunk into a state of languor and debility, and the only contest which remained, was, who should exert himself most agreeably to the wishes of the court.

To the fatal riots, which in June had disgraced the metropolis of England, much of this quiescent disposition must be attributed; by these tremendous commotions, every person possessed of property was alarmed, and every man who lived in the enjoyment of ease and luxury was induced to dread the horrid excesses and devastations of a mob. The adherents of ministry, were active in confounding the absurdities of an intolerant association, with all the attempts to procure a reform of real grievances, or a cessation from the destructive war in which the country was then engaged. The sanguinary executions which succeeded the riots, cast a depressing gloom over the minds of the multitude, and served to increase that awe and reverence which are always experienced for an established government.

The year 1781, was one of the most remarkable in the annals of the British parliament; three stars of the first magnitude shone in the political hemisphere—Pitt, Fox, and Burke—and by their eloquence awakened the country to a sense of the danger which im-

pendent over it. Mr. Fox was never a favourite of his late majesty, which was partly owing to his strenuous and unwearied opposition to the American war, and to some traits of his private character, which were by no means of an amiable nature. His majesty, however, of all men, knew how to command himself, and particularly so in his political quarrels. This trait in his character was particularly distinguished, on the arrival of the intelligence of lord Cornwallis's surrender at York Town, which may justly be said to have given the final blow to all his hopes of retaining the sovereignty of the American colonies. On the day of its arrival, a political party dined with lord George Germaine, who had received the intelligence, and who despatched it immediately to his majesty. In a short time a note was brought to the minister, who observed to lord Walsingham, "The king writes just as he always does, except that I observe, he has omitted to mark the hour and the minute of his writing with his usual precision."

This note is stated to have been of the following import:—"I have received, with sentiments of the deepest concern, the communication which lord George Germaine has made me of the unfortunate result of the operations in Virginia. I particularly lament it, on account of the consequences connected with it, and the difficulties which it may produce in carrying on the public business, or in repairing such a misfortune. But I trust that neither lord George Germaine, nor any member of the cabinet, will suppose that it makes the smallest alteration in those principles of my conduct which have directed me in past time, and which will always continue to animate me under every event, in the prosecution of the present contest."

In 1781, a striking instance occurred of the attention which his majesty paid to the services

and rewards of his servants. Lord Amherst presenting to the king a packet of army commissions for his signature, his majesty, on looking over the list, observed an officer appointed captain over an old lieutenant, and inquiring the reason, was answered by his lordship, "He cannot buy." The name struck the king, and before he signed the commissions, he turned to one of those large folios, of which he had a number, in his own hand-writing, and presently finding the name of the lieutenant, and some memorandums of his private life, he immediately ordered him to be promoted to the vacant company.

In the distribution of honours, the king never forgot his own personal feelings, although he frequently granted to political solicitation what was by no means agreeable to himself. Indeed, in one instance he is said to have yielded a baronetcy for a *jeu d'esprit*. The late Dr. Elliot had never been a favourite, and when lord George Germaine requested his majesty to confer the title on that physician, the king manifested much unwillingness, saying at length, "But if I do, he shall not be my physician." "No, Sir," replied his lordship, "he shall be your majesty's baronet, and my physician." This excited the royal smile, and the bloody hand was added to the doctor's arms.

An excellent *bon mot* is recorded by his majesty about this period. In the latter end of March, 1781, lord Bateman waited upon the king, and begged to know what time his majesty would choose to have the stag-hounds turned out? "My lord," replied his majesty, with a very grave face, "I cannot exactly answer that, but I can inform you that your lordship was *turned out* about an hour ago!" Lord Bateman was succeeded by the marquis of Carmarthen.

It is well known that his late majesty had a

method of stooping to his inferiors without sinking his own dignity, or suffering improper liberties; and, he was particularly gratified in employing religious persons without regard to their peculiarities, with whom he would frequently converse on various topics to elicit information. We have had some interesting anecdotes transmitted to us relative to this condescension of his majesty, and which at the same time exhibit his piety and toleration in the most amiable light.

On one occasion, seeing a young female domestic in tears, he catechised her on the cause, and finding her grief arose from being prohibited by a superior from going to a dissenting meeting in the neighbourhood, his majesty called the individual before him, and reproved her sharply, declaring he *would suffer no persecution during his reign.*

There was an inferior servant in the late king's family some years ago, who was truly pious, and could not join the other servants in their festivities of singing and dancing, and playing at cards; and their dislike to her had influenced a superior to dismiss her at a very short notice, paying her a month's wages. She had packed her things ready to depart, and was coming down stairs with her trunk and a bundle, when she was met by the king, who asked her whither she was going with them; she informed his majesty that she had been dismissed the service. He asked what she had done to occasion her quitting? to which she replied, that she could not conscientiously join the other servants in their entertainments, in consequence of which it was considered, that she marred their comforts, and she was discharged. His majesty said no one should be so discharged, who had done no wrong; he inquired into the case, and reinstated her.

On another occasion, when the king was going

to Windsor, he met a female of his establishment, and as the servants were generally much pleased with their accommodations at the Castle, he good-humouredly saluted her with a congratulation, including a question if she was not glad they were going. To which she ventured to reply, "Indeed your majesty I am not. In my view, the gospel is not preached at Windsor, and I can get no food for my soul." "Then you shall not go," said the king. Some time after, his majesty spoke to her again, "You may go to Windsor now" said the worthy monarch, "for you can get food for your soul." His majesty had discovered that some plain people met together there for worship, and had found out their principles, which he considered as congenial with those of his pious servant. The result proved that he was right, and the good woman was satisfied.

An under gardener with whom his majesty was accustomed to converse, was missed one day, and he inquired of the head gardener where he was; "Please your majesty," said the gardener, "he is so very troublesome with his religion, and is always talking about it." "Is he dishonest," said the king, "does he neglect his work?" "No your majesty he is very honest, I have nothing to say against him for that." "Then send for him again," said the monarch; "why should he be turned off? *Call me Defender of the Faith,* and turn away a man for his religion!"

When the king was repairing his palace at Kew, one of the workmen, who was a pious character, was particularly noticed by his majesty, and he often held conversations with him of some length upon serious subjects. One Monday morning, the king went as usual to watch the progress of the work, and not seeing this man in his customary place, inquired the reason of his absence. He was answered

evasively; and, for some time, the other workmen avoided telling his majesty the truth; at last, however, upon being more strictly interrogated, they acknowledged that not having been able to complete a particular job on the Saturday night, they had returned to finish it on the following morning. This man alone had refused to comply, because he considered it a violation of the Christian sabbath; and in consequence of what they called his obstinacy, he had been dismissed entirely from his employment. "Call him back immediately," exclaimed the good king. "The man who refused doing his ordinary work on the Lord's day, is *the man for me*. Let him be sent for." The man was accordingly replaced, and the king ever after shewed him particular favour.

An architect, who was a serious man, having some business with his late majesty, attended at one of his palaces, and he was shewn into a room where a nobleman afterwards came, who used much impious and blasphemous language, for which the gentleman felt it his duty to rebuke him. This threw the peer into a rage, and occasioned such a noise, that the king came into the room, to inquire the cause of it; when the nobleman informed him that he had been insulted by the other person; but upon the architect explaining, that he only rebuked him for profaneness and blasphemy, his majesty said he had his approbation for what he had done, as he did not allow blasphemy in his dwelling. He afterwards desired the architect to sit down, to forget his royalty, and freely to tell him the ground of his hope of salvation, which he stated to be the sacrifice and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The king said, that also, was the ground of his dependence.

The king one day conversing with one of his tradesmen, whom he knew to be a Presbyterian, asked him, "Does your parson ever pray for

me?" "In good troth he does, your majesty," replied the Scotchman, "and from his very heart too." "I dare say he does," rejoined the king, "for you know he is not paid for it."

His majesty was always mindful of his promises, and in the year 1781, he conferred the bishoprick of Winchester on the brother of lord North, who was at that time bishop of Worcester; this was done in compliance with an engagement pledged to lord North a few years before, obtained under circumstances which display a little of the general system of court intrigue. Lord North had been particularly anxious to procure the see of Winchester for his brother, it being the second in England in point of emolument; and he adopted a singular method of obtaining it, by asking for him the archiepiscopal mitre of York, on the demise of Dr. Drummond. He, however, was well aware at the time that the king intended to confer this dignity upon the bishop of Chester, Dr. Markham, as a reward for the particular care which he had taken of the education of the prince of Wales; he asked it, therefore, with the conviction that he would receive a refusal, but still appeared to use the privilege of a prime minister in urging his claim. His majesty, as he suspected, continued resolute, and the premier, as if on a forlorn hope, said, "I hope then your majesty will have no objection to translate him to Winchester." To this the king assented, and the death of Dr. Thomas shortly after, completed the arrangement.

On the expected arrival of the British North Sea fleet, after the action off the Dogger-bank, the king determined to pay a visit to the gallant Hyde Parker; and accordingly, on the 17th of September, he and the prince of Wales, embarking in their respective yachts, proceeded from Greenwich, receiving the usual salutes

from the different forts, dock-yards, and ships, as they passed, and anchored in Sea-reach about four in the afternoon.

At five, the next morning, they got under weigh, and proceeded into the Medway, anchoring off Blackstakes about nine, from whence they went on shore to Sheerness, to visit the dock-yard and new fortifications. At noon, they returned to their yachts, and proceeded towards the Nore, at the very moment when Parker's squadron were coming to an anchor.

The vice-admiral, after the usual salutes, went on board the royal yacht, where he had the honour of dining with his majesty; after which the king and prince went on board the *Fortitude*, the flag ship, when the royal standard was hoisted, the whole fleet saluting with twenty-one guns each.

His majesty then retired to the great cabin, where the captains and officers of the squadron were graciously received, and had the honour of kissing the royal hand; after which the king and prince visited all parts of the ship; and sailed for Chatham the same evening.

The public were surprised that the king did not confer some mark of distinction upon the admiral; but it was said, that although he expressed a wish to do so, the veteran seaman refused it on the plea that his victory was only a drawn battle, which he attributed to his want of sufficient force, through the misconduct of the admiralty. Indeed the resentment of the old veteran was so great that he told his majesty, in the presence of the lord of the admiralty, "that he wished him younger officers, and better ships," and begged leave to resign, which, in a short time, he actually did.

We copy the following letter from Mrs. Delany's correspondence, indicative of the domestic manner in which his majesty passed his time, at this period of his life:

"On Tuesday morning, a quarter before ten, the duchess of Portland stepped into her chaise, and I had the honour of attending her. We went to Garrat's-cross, about the middle of the common, by the appointment and the command of the king, who came, about a quarter of an hour after, with the prince of Wales, and a large retinue. His majesty came up immediately to the duchess of Portland's carriage, most gracious, and delighted to see the duchess out so early. The queen was there with the two eldest princesses and lady Courtown, in a post-coach and four. The king came with a message from the queen to the duchess of Portland, to say, her majesty would see her safe back to Bulstrode, and breakfast with her grace. The duke of Cumberland was there; and a great many carriages, and many of our acquaintance: amongst them, lady Mary Forbes and her family. She took three rooms at the Bull-inn, and breakfasted thirty people. The king himself ordered the spot where the duchess of Portland's chaise should stand to see the stag turned out. It was brought in a cart to that place by the king's command. The stag was set at liberty, and the poor trembling creature bounded over the plain, in hopes of escaping from his pursuers; but the dogs and the hunters were soon after him, and all out of sight.

"The duchess of Portland returned home, in order to be ready to receive the queen, who immediately followed before we could pull off our bonnets and cloaks. We received her majesty and the princesses on the steps at the door. She is so condescending and gracious that she makes every thing perfectly easy. We got home a quarter before eleven o'clock; her majesty staid till two. In her return back to Windsor she met the chase, and was at the taking of the stag: they would not let the dogs kill him.

"On Wednesday the duchess of Portland intended to go to return the queen thanks for the honour she had done her: we were to set out early. I dressed my head for the day before breakfast, when a letter arrived from Miss Hamilton, from the queen's lodge, to me, with a message from the king, to desire we would not come till Thursday evening, eight o'clock; as he could not be at home till then. Accordingly we went: were there at the appointed hour. The king and queen and the princesses received us in the drawing-room, to which we went through the concert-room. Princess Mary took me by the left hand, princess Sophia and the sweet little prince Octavius took me by the right hand, and led me after the duchess of Portland into the drawing-room. The king nodded and smiled upon my little conductors, and bid them lead me up to the queen, who stood in the middle of the room. When we were all seated, (for the queen is so gracious she will always make me sit down,) the duchess of Portland sat next to the queen, and I sat next to princess royal. On the other side of me was a chair, and his majesty did me the honour to sit by me. He went backwards and forwards between that and the music-room: he was so gracious as to have a good deal of conversation with me, particularly about Handel's music; and ordered those pieces to be played which he found I gave a preference to. In the course of the evening the queen changed places with princess royal, saying, most graciously, she must have a little conversation with Mrs. Delany, which lasted about half an hour. She then got up, it being half-an-hour after ten, and said she was afraid she should keep the duchess of Portland too late, and made her courtesy and we withdrew. There was nobody but their attendants, and lord and lady Courtown. Nothing could be more easy and agreeable.

We came home very well lighted by our lanterns and the Northern lights; sat down, and ate a hearty supper at twelve o'clock, and slept very well after it. I own I expected to be more fatigued than I was. I thank God, the duchess of Portland got no cold, and we are both very well."

Few things in the life of George III. did more honour to his reign than the devotion of his son, prince William Henry to the service of the British navy; nor can any thing be considered more honourable to an individual, than that son's spirited acceptance of the professional life proposed to him by his royal father. The naval character is one of the dearest to the interest of Britain. Every rank of life alike looks up to it for protection and security. Naval fame is, however, dearly earned. The sailor's warfare is in the farthest extreme of sufferance and danger. "The very elements," to use the words of an elegant writer, "are his foes;" and he often receives more injury from them than from those of his country. He has to contend not only with a faithless ocean, replete with danger, but with the change of climate, with the trying succession of burning suns and freezing skies. He is borne away from his friends and native land, confined to the ship in which he sails, and deprived of every communication that may cheer his heart in the moment of distress, and at the extremities of the globe. The hour of combat approaches him with redoubled danger; and, it not unfrequently proves his lamentable fate to fly from the quick approach of consuming fire, to find a tomb in the devouring wave. The first years of the infant seaman's life are fatigue and hardship. Removed from a parent's tender care, and all the comforts of a protecting home, it is his lot to enter upon a scene where the severe discipline of rigorous instruction, prepares him to bear

with resolution the future toils of his profession.

Towards the close of this year the bishop of Osnaburgh set out for the Continent, it being the intention of the king that his son should reap the benefit of an intercourse with foreign countries; and, as he was particularly destined for the army, his attention was to be directed to the study of the Prussian tactics, which were at this time supposed to be the most perfect in Europe. This arrangement was, however, much blamed at the time, and the partisans of faction saw in it nothing more nor less than a dereliction of parental duty. On what grounds that opinion could have been formed, it is impossible at present to decide; the impolicy of the measure was by no means proved, and the outcry against it originated more from a prejudiced disposition, than from any firm conviction of its danger, or its impropriety.

The year 1781 closed with a settled gloom upon the country, and the dissatisfaction of the people appeared in several petitions and remonstrances which were presented against the war. The city of London on this occasion led the way in a very strong remonstrance, which was presented on the 18th of December, in which the livery of London deplore "the intention," manifested in his majesty's speech, "of persevering in a system of measures, which has proved so disastrous to this country."—In so critical and awful a moment, they profess, "that to flatter is to betray; that his majesty's ministers have, by false assertions, and fallacious suggestions, deluded his majesty and this nation into the present unnatural and unfortunate war." They proceed in the following animated terms:—

"Your majesty's fleets have lost their wonted superiority,

"Your armies have been captured,

"Your dominions have been lost,

"And your majesty's faithful subjects have been loaded with a burthen of taxes, which, even if our victories had been as splendid as our defeats have been disgraceful; if our accession of dominions had been as fortunate as the dismemberment of the empire has been cruel and disastrous, could not in itself be considered but as a great and grievous calamity."

The address concluded with exhorting his majesty, "no longer to continue in a delusion, from which the nation had awakened," and with imploring that he would "dismiss from his presence and councils all the advisers, both public and secret," of these destructive measures.

The example of the city of London was immediately followed by that of Westminster, and by some other places; and, before the meeting of parliament, every thing portended the speedy dissolution of the ministry.

The unpopularity of the American war became in 1782 so great, and the management of the house of commons so difficult, that the supplies could scarcely be obtained; and indeed, there never was perhaps a more singular mixture of pride and meanness, of cunning and incapacity, of effrontery and cowardice, than was exhibited by the administration of 1782. Whoever contemplates the whole of the American dispute, will see every part of this censure strongly exemplified. The insolence with which the most condescending petitions, the most respectful proposals from America, were received in the commencement of the dispute, could only be paralleled by the mean and degrading artifices which were employed during its progress, and the truly humiliating concessions which were offered towards its termination. It is something singular, that while

ministry possessed the full powers of external taxation which placed in the hands of the British parliament the whole financial arrangements of America, it could be absurd enough to contend for so apparently, so empty a shadow as that of internal taxation; it may seem extraordinary also, that America, while she so tamely acquiesced in the one should be disposed, at the expense of her best blood, to contend against the other. But America probably foresaw, in admitting the principle of internal taxation, the complete overthrow of her liberties; she saw the immediate annihilation of her popular assemblies, which would then be rendered nugatory. The colonists foresaw a swarm of rapacious insects, under the different forms of collectors of revenue, to be quartered on them; they foresaw, in one word, the sole government of their country transferred to persons who were at too great a distance to be either judges of their sufferings, or affected with their complaints; and, in the levying of taxes, they feared that partiality which, in such cases, will necessarily affect the most unexceptionable of human characters, and induce them to transfer the burden from themselves.

Innumerable plans had been proposed for the adjustment of the disputed points between the colonies and the mother country; but either from obstinacy or some more corrupt motive, administration refused to pay the smallest attention to them. The venerable Franklin, and the judicious Penn were insulted, and in the progress of the war the same little spirit, the same contemptible pride, was manifested upon every occasion. To an application certainly unexceptionable, because humanity was its basis, an answer equally pompous and puerile was returned: "The king's ambassadors receive letters from rebels, only when they sue for pardon."

In the mean time the administration of lord North was drawing to a close, and the philosophic coolness of his majesty on all political questions was particularly manifest in the case of the resignation of lord North, in March 1782, when his lordship fearful of an unfavourable division in the house of commons, actually sent a messenger to Windsor with a note, enclosing his resignation. His majesty received this important communication just as he was mounting his horse for a hunting party. He read the note, put it with apparent indifference in his pocket, mounted his hunter, and was riding off, when he was stopped by a page, who informed him, that the premier's courier waited for an answer. His majesty still preserved his indifference, and replied, "Tell him I shall be in town to-morrow morning, and will then give lord North an answer." Then turning to the duke of Dorset and lord Hinchinbroke, he coolly said, "Lord North has sent in his resignation, but I shall not accept of it."

An interview did take place the ensuing day, which lasted an hour and a half, after which lord North went down to the house, and declared his resignation.

The new arrangement of ministers was made upon as broad a basis as the nature of things would admit, and included the most distinguished personages among the two great parties which divided the whig interest of the nation; the Rockingham party, and that which, since the death of lord Chatham, had been accustomed to consider lord Shelburne as their political leader. The marquis of Rockingham, whose large property, and extended influence, whose sound judgment and integrity, justly exalted him in the opinion of the nation, occupied the principal station, as first commissioner of the treasury; and lord George Cavendish, whose high birth was rendered still more illus-

trious by his virtue and patriotism, was appointed chancellor of the exchequer. The splendid abilities of lord Shelburne and Mr. Fox, filled the offices of the two secretaries of state; lord Camden was president of the council; the duke of Grafton was appointed lord privy-seal; admiral Keppel, who was created a viscount, presided over the board of admiralty; general Conway was made commander-in-chief, and the duke of Richmond master of the ordnance; lord Thurlow was continued lord high chancellor; and these ten, with Mr. Dunning, created lord Ashburton, and made chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, constituted the cabinet council.

Mr. Burke was made paymaster, in the room of Mr. Rigby, colonel Barré treasurer of the navy, and Mr. T. Townshend secretary at war. The duke of Portland went to Ireland, to succeed the earl of Carlisle as lord-lieutenant; sir Fletcher Norton was created a baron, by the title of lord Grantley; and Lloyd Kenyon and John Lee, esqrs. were appointed attorney and solicitor general.

The public measures for which the whig ministry are said to have stipulated were, first, peace with America, and the acknowledgment of their independence, should it be necessary to that object; secondly, a reform in the several branches of the civil list expenditure, upon the plan suggested by Mr. Burke; and thirdly, the diminution of the influence of the crown, by excluding contractors from seats in the house of commons, and by disqualifying revenue-officers from voting in elections for members of parliament.

In this change of ministers a good *bon mot* is related of the earl of Mount Edgumbe, who was then captain of the band of gentlemen pensioners, and who accompanied the ex-ministers in the turn out. They assembled at the Cocoa-

tree, Pall-mall; the day was excessively dirty, and it rained incessantly. His lordship, on alighting from his carriage, hurried into the Cocoa, and was received with a general cry of "What, my lord, are you turned out also?" "Yes," said his lordship, "they have turned me out in such a day as no Christian would turn out a dog in."

The prosperity of nations, even more than that of individuals, is, however, precarious, and depends upon little, and frequently unforeseen contingencies. Of the truth of this observation the year 1782 afforded a melancholy truth. We have seen the government of this country wrested out of the unskilful hands which had conducted it almost to the verge of destruction; and the whole ability, the patriotism, the landed interest of the nation, at once united in support of an administration, formed on the most popular basis. But the gay and pleasant prospects which arose to cheer and console the real friends of Britain, were in a moment obscured; and a black cloud once more overspread the political horizon. The event to which we allude, is the lamented death of the marquis of Rockingham. On the first of July, he fell a victim to a complaint with which he had been long afflicted, (the hydrothorax), and which had latterly been increased by too assiduous an application to the public business.

From general opinion only we can speak of the character of this statesman. His enemies allow him to have been possessed of talents; and indeed it requires no mean abilities in such a country as this, even with the advantages of birth and fortune, to acquire such an ascendancy as he is known to have possessed over the party with whom he was connected. But whatever his talents, his integrity and honour inspired still superior confidence; nor has even the malignity of faction been able to cast them into

shade. The praises of a friend are always to be suspected; but Mr. Burke's character of the marquis of Rockingham has never yet been contradicted. That character attributes to the noble person who is the subject of it, some of the rarest and most valuable qualities which can fall to the lot of a finite being—"sound principles, enlargement of mind, clear and sagacious sense, and unshaken fortitude:" he professes to have formed the basis of that attachment in which he gloried, and in which, we must confess to his honour, he persevered.

But however little our readers may be disposed to give credit to this almost unlimited panegyric, one truth is established, that his age, his rank, his long experience and services, marked him out as the centre of union which kept the jarring particles of the whig interest united. The fatal contest for power which succeeded on his decease, at once divided and weakened that body, on whom the hopes of the country were fixed, exposed them to the intrigues of a pernicious faction, and (what is worse) unsettled the confidence of the people, and taught them the destructive lesson, to trust no longer to the professions of public men.

The eyes of the nation were directed to the two secretaries of state; and had the appointment of a successor to the deceased marquis been vested in the popular choice, some hesitation, and perhaps some division of sentiment must have ensued. The universal and brilliant talents of Mr. Fox were counterbalanced by the long experience of lord Shelburne, and by his intimate acquaintance with the political interests of Europe. The interior of courts is seldom laid open till a series of years has elapsed; and then the communication rather gratifies curiosity, than increases the stock of useful knowledge. Of the motives for the

new arrangements, or the manner in which they were effected, but little can at present with certainty be spoken.

Another instance of his majesty's coolness displayed itself on this occasion; when on the death of the marquis of Rockingham, Mr. Fox expected to be called upon by his sovereign, to fill the post of prime minister, some time, however, elapsing without this hope being gratified, he summoned a secret council of the Cavendishes, lord Keppel, Mr. Burke, the duke of Richmond, &c. at his house in Grafton-street, when he briefly told them, that the earl of Shelburne would be appointed minister, unless they all firmly united to oppose such a measure. On this it was unanimously agreed, that the duke of Portland would be a proper person for the prime minister, under their auspices, and that Mr. Fox should immediately wait on the king, with a strong recommendation of his grace by this majority of the cabinet. Mr. Fox reached the royal closet only time enough to learn, that lord Shelburne had just gone out with the appointment of first lord of the treasury. Mr. Fox, expressing great astonishment on hearing this, asked his majesty, "If, under these circumstances, he had any objection to his (Mr. Fox's) naming the new secretary of state?" To this his majesty replied, "That, sir, is already done." On which Mr. Fox rejoined, "Then, I trust, your majesty can dispense with my services." The king replied hastily, "That also, sir, is done." Mr. Fox bowed and retired, and next day had a further audience to deliver up his seals of office.

These changes in the administration were very distressing to his majesty, particularly as Burke's bill of reform in the royal household, deprived the monarch of many persons of very high rank to whom he had long been habi-

tuated about his court. Indeed, that famous bill never performed one tenth of its parent's promises, though it produced much inconvenience, particularly in the suppression of the jewel office; on which account, when his majesty went to the house of peers to prorogue the parliament, on the 11th July, there being no master of the jewels, and the lord steward and the lord chamberlain having no authority, it became necessary for the honourable secretary of state to issue an order by which the crown and other regalia were actually removed from the Tower in a hackney coach, under the care of the police.

The Shelburne administration was respectable, but it was feeble: it wanted both parliamentary interest and parliamentary ability. The talents of the noble lord who presided over it will not admit of a dispute; but, even in this respect, he was not well supported. Lord Grantham, a nobleman more distinguished by his amiable character than by the extent of his abilities, succeeded to the office of Mr. Fox; and Mr. T. Townshend was appointed to that which lord Shelburne had just vacated. In the splendid and classical eloquence of Mr. W. Pitt, who was made chancellor of the exchequer, his lordship, doubtless, considered himself as having found a powerful ally; but his character was scarcely sufficiently matured and established; and being totally destitute of parliamentary influence, he was able to afford his principal little of that support in which the administration was most essentially deficient. Earl Temple succeeded the duke of Portland in the viceroyalty of Ireland.

By Mr. Fox and his adherents, their resignation was attributed to a difference of opinion which was said to prevail in the cabinet, relative to an immediate declaration of the independence of America; and lord Shelburne

himself afforded some colour to this assertion, by repeating in the house of lords a declaration which he had formerly made, "that whenever the parliament of Great Britain should acknowledge the independence of America, the sun of England's glory was set for ever."—The other members of the cabinet who continued in place, however, general Conway and the duke of Richmond in particular, declared, that no departure whatever was intended from the public measures resolved on by the Rockingham administration. On the 9th of July, a debate having arisen concerning a pension which had been granted to colonel Barré and another to lord Ashburton, these topics were urged on both sides with considerable vehemence. Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox both admitted that they had concurred in the grant of these pensions, but desired it to be remarked, that the only favours which had been conferred, and the only deviations which had been permitted from the principles of economy by the Rockingham administration, had been in favour of the friends of lord Shelburne. On this subject it may be proper to remark, that pensions could scarcely have been more deservedly conferred than those in question; but neither did the state of the public finances authorize any unnecessary grants of the public money, nor was it in the least consistent with the public professions of the whig party, who had so frequently and so energetically declaimed against pensions in general, to countenance, in any instance, what is in most a glaring abuse.

The parliamentary session, however, terminated peaceably for the new ministry, and left them in the full possession of their power, till, at least, the succeeding meeting of parliament.—The king's speech at the prorogation, which took place on the 11th of July, touched

only on the usual topics ; and it was remarked, that every allusion to the interior politics of the country was cautiously avoided.

The situation of the country at the close of 1782, may be best collected from his majesty's speech, delivered on opening the session of parliament, on the 5th of December.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Since the close of the last session, I have employed my whole time in the care and attention which the important and critical conjuncture of public affairs required of me.

I lost no time in giving the necessary orders to prohibit the further prosecution of offensive war upon the continent of North America. Adopting, as my inclination will always lead me to do, with decision and effect, whatever I collect to be the sense of my parliament and my people ; I have pointed all my views and measures, as well in Europe as in North America, to an entire and cordial reconciliation with those colonies.

Finding it indispensable to the attainment of this object, I did not hesitate to go the full length of the powers vested in me, and offered to declare them free and independent states, by an article to be inserted in the treaty of peace. Provisional articles are agreed upon, to take effect whenever terms of peace shall be finally settled with the court of France.

In thus admitting their separation from the crown of these kingdoms, I have sacrificed every consideration of my own to the wishes and opinion of my people. I make it my humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that Great Britain may not feel the evils which might result from so great a dismemberment of the empire ; and that America may be free from those calamities, which have formerly proved in the mother country how essential monarchy is to the enjoyment of constitutional liberty.—Religion—language—interest—affections may, and I hope will yet prove a bond of permanent union between the two countries : to this end, neither attention nor disposition shall be wanting on my part.

While I have carefully abstained from all offensive operations against America, I have directed my whole force by land and sea against the other powers at war, with as much vigour as the situation of that force, at the

commencement of the campaign, would permit. I trust that you feel the advantages resulting from the safety of the great branches of our trade. You must have seen with pride and satisfaction the gallant defence of the governor and the garrison of Gibraltar ; and my fleet, after having effected the object of their destination, offering battle to the combined force of France and Spain on their own coasts ; those of my kingdoms have remained at the same time perfectly secure, and your domestic tranquillity uninterrupted. This respectable state, under the blessing of God, I attribute to the entire confidence which subsists between me and my people, and to the readiness which has been shown by my subjects in my city of London, and in other parts of my kingdoms, to stand forth in the general defence. Some proofs have lately been given of public spirit in private men, which would do honour to any age, and any country.

Having manifested to the whole world, by the most lasting examples, the signal spirit and bravery of my people, I conceived it a moment not unbecoming my dignity, and thought it a regard due to the lives and fortunes of such brave and gallant subjects, to shew myself ready on my part, to embrace fair and honourable terms of accommodation with all the powers at war.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that negotiations to this effect are considerably advanced, the result of which, as soon as they are brought to a conclusion, shall be immediately communicated to you.

I have every reason to hope and believe, that I shall have it in my power in a very short time to acquaint you, that they have ended in terms of pacification, which, I trust, you will see just cause to approve. I rely, however, with perfect confidence on the wisdom of my parliament, and the spirit of my people, that if any unforeseen change in the dispositions of the belligerent powers should frustrate my confident expectations, they will approve of the preparations I have thought it advisable to make, and be ready to second the most vigorous efforts in the farther prosecution of the war.

Amidst these political turmoils, his majesty was by no means neglectful of the arts and sciences. He was always particularly desirous to patronize every invention which had a reference to the improvement of navigation, and consequently he paid particular attention to the

important discoveries which were at this time making in astronomy by the celebrated Herschel. He appointed him his own private astronomer, with a house at Slough, and granted him a pension, which placed him in a comfortable, if not in affluent circumstances. It was in 1782 that Herschel discovered the Georgium Sidus, which name he gave to the planet in honour of his majesty; but that name being considered too national by the foreign astronomers, and especially by Mr. Bode, of Berlin, the name of Uranus was given to it. However, Lalande, astronomer royal at Paris, acted a more liberal part, as he observed, in one of his works, "The giving the name of Uranus to the planet of Mr. Herschel is an act of ingratitude to the author of that noble discovery, and an affront to that august and munificent patron of astronomy, the king of Great Britain, whose name ought to be preferred to every other, if that of the author had not a still more forcible claim to our acknowledgements."

In the year 1783 ended the most unfortunate war in which Great Britain had hitherto ever been engaged; a war commenced in the very wantonness of pride and folly—a war, which had for its object to deprive America of those very rights for which our ancestors had gloriously contended—a war, the proposed object of which was to levy a tax which would not have paid the collectors—a war, conducted with the same weakness and incapacity on the part of the British ministry with which it was commenced; which might in the early stages of the dispute have been avoided by the slightest concessions, or by amicable negotiation; and which might frequently have been terminated with honour, but for the incorrigible obstinacy and unparalleled folly of the worst administration that ever disgraced this country. This deplorable war, which ended in so considerable a dis-

memberment of the British empire cost the nation more money than the ever-memorable campaigns of Marlborough, and the still more glorious war of lord Chatham, more indeed than all the wars in which Great Britain had been engaged from the revolution to the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The independence of America being acknowledged, an envoy was sent from the United States to the court of St. James's, and his majesty, on this occasion, exhibited a model of unshaken fidelity to his engagements, even those most repugnant to his own feelings, and most contrary to his own judgment. How magnanimous was his reception and treatment of Adams, a man personally obnoxious to him, when presented at his levee as envoy from the American States. In terms the most conciliating, yet nobly frank, he avowed to that minister, with what reluctance he had consented to the separation of the transatlantic British colonies from his dominions, "but," added he, "their independence being now consummated, I shall be the last man in my kingdoms to encourage its violation."

The separation of a whole people from a crown to which they had for ages borne allegiance, is no ordinary event; and next to it, in singularity and importance, we may rank the appearance of an ambassador, in the name of that people as an independent state, at the court of the monarch they formerly owned for their sovereign. The following interesting account of his first audience of his late majesty, is contained in a letter to Mr. Jay:

Bath-hotel, Westminster, June 9, 1783.

Dear Sir,

During my interview with the marquis of Carmarthen, he told me that it was customary for every foreign minister, at his first presentation to the king, to make his majesty some compliments conformable to the spirit of

his credentials: and when sir Clement Cottrel Danes, the master of the ceremonies, came to inform me that he should accompany me to the secretary of state, and to court, he said that every foreign minister whom he had attended to the queen, had always made an harangue to her majesty, and he understood, though he had not been present, that they always harangued the king. On Tuesday evening, the baron de Lynden (Dutch ambassador) called upon me, and said he came from the baron de Nelkin (Swedish envoy), and had been conversing upon the situation I was in; and they agreed in opinion that it was indispensable that I should make a speech, and that it should be as complimentary as possible. All this was parallel to the advice lately given by the count de Vergennes to Mr. Jefferson. So that finding that it was a custom established at both these great courts, and that this court and the foreign ministers expected it, I thought I could not avoid it, although my first thought and inclination had been to deliver my credentials silently, and retire. At one, on Wednesday the 1st of June, the master of ceremonies called at my house, and went with me to the secretary of state's office, in Cleveland-row, where the marquis of Carmarthen received me, and introduced me to Mr. Frazier, his under secretary, who had been, as his lordship said, uninterruptedly in that office, through all the changes in administration, for thirty years, having first been appointed by the earl of Holderness. After a short conversation upon the subject of importing my effects from Holland and France, free of duty, which Mr. Frazier himself introduced, lord Carmarthen invited me to go with him in his coach to court. When we arrived in the anti-chamber, the *Œil de Beuf* of St. James, the master of the ceremonies met me, and attended me while the secretary of state went to take the commands of the king. While I stood in this place, where it seems all ministers of state, bishops, and all other sorts of courtiers assemble, as well as in the next room, which is the king's bed-chamber, you may suppose I was the focus of all eyes. I was relieved, however, from the embarrassment of it, by the Swedish and Dutch ministers, who came to me, and entertained me in a very agreeable conversation during the whole time. Some other gentlemen whom I had seen before, came to make their compliments too; until the marquis of Carmarthen returned, and desired me to go with him to his majesty! I went with his lordship through the levee room into the king's closet; the

door was shut, and I was left with his majesty and the secretary of state alone. I made the three reverences; one at the door, another about half-way, and the third before the presence, according to the usage established at this and all the northern courts of Europe, and then addressed myself to his majesty in the following words:

'Sir—The United States of America have appointed me their minister plenipotentiary to your majesty, and have directed me to deliver to your majesty this letter, which contains the evidence of it. It is in obedience to their express commands, that I have the honour to assure your majesty of their unanimous disposition and desire to cultivate the most friendly and liberal intercourse between your majesty's subjects and their citizens, and of their best wishes for your majesty's health and happiness and for that of your royal family.

'The appointment of a minister from the United States to your majesty's court will form an epoch in the history of England and America. I think myself more fortunate than all my fellow citizens, in having the distinguished honour to be the first to stand in your majesty's royal presence in a diplomatic character; and I shall esteem myself the happiest of men, if I can be instrumental in recommending my country more and more to your majesty's royal benevolence, and of restoring an entire esteem, confidence, and affection, or in better words, 'the old good nature, and the good old humour,' between people, who, though separated by an ocean, and under different governments, have the same language, a similar religion, a kindred blood. I beg your majesty's permission to add, that although I have sometimes before been entrusted by my country, it was never in my whole life in a manner so agreeable to myself.

The king listened to every word I said, with dignity it is true, but with an apparent emotion. Whether it was the nature of the interview, or whether it was my visible agitation, for I felt more than I did or could express, that touched me, I cannot say; but he was much affected, and answered me with more tremour than I had spoken with, and said, 'Sir, the circumstances of this audience are so extraordinary, the language you have now held is so extremely proper, and the feelings you have discovered so justly adapted to the occasion, that I must say, that I not only receive with pleasure the assurance of the friendly disposition of the United States, but that I am very glad the choice has fallen upon you to

be their minister. I wish you, sir, to believe, that it may be understood in America, that I have done nothing in the late contest but what I thought myself indispensably bound to do, by the duty which I owed to my people. I will be very frank with you. I was the last to conform to the separation; but the separation having been made, and having become inevitable, I have always said, as I say now, that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power. The moment I see such sentiment and language as your's prevail, and a disposition to give this country the preference, that moment I shall say, let the circumstances of language, religion, and blood, have their natural and full effect.'

I dare not say, that these were the king's precise words, and it is even possible that I may have in some particular mistaken his meaning; for although his pronunciation is as distinct as I ever heard, he hesitated sometimes between his periods, and between numbers of the same period. He was indeed much affected, and I was not less so, and therefore I cannot be certain that I was so attentive, heard so clearly, and understood so perfectly, as to be confident of all his words or sense; and I think that all which he said to me should at present be kept secret in America, unless his majesty or his secretary of state should judge proper to report it. This I do say, that the foregoing is his majesty's meaning, as I then understood it, and his own words as nearly as I can recollect them.

The king then asked me whether I came last from France? and upon my answering in the affirmative, he put on an air of familiarity, and smiling, or rather laughing, said, 'there is an opinion among some people, that you are not the most attached of all your countrymen to the manners of France.' I was surprised at this, because I thought it an indiscretion, and a descent from his dignity. I was a little embarrassed, but determined not to deny the truth on one hand, nor leave him to infer from it any attachment to England on the other. I threw off as much gravity as I could, and assumed an air of gaiety, and a tone of decision, as far as was decent, and said—'That opinion, sir, is not mistaken; I must avow to your majesty I have no attachment but to my own country.' The king replied as quick as lightning, 'An honest man will never have any other.'

The king then said a word or two to the secretary of

state, which being then between them, I did not hear, and then turned round and bowed to me, as is customary with all kings and princes, when they give the signal to retire. I retreated, stepping backwards, as is the etiquette, and making my last reverence at the door of the chamber, I went my way. The master of the ceremonies joined me the moment of my coming out of the king's closet, and accompanied me through all the apartments, down to my carriage, several stages of servants, gentlemen porters, and under porters, roaring out like thunder, as I went along, 'Mr. Adams's servants, Mr. Adams's carriage,' &c.

I have been thus minute in these details, because they may be useful to others hereafter to know. The conversation with the king I should not dare to withhold from congress, who will form their own judgment of it. I may possibly expect a residence from it here less painful than I once expected, because so marked an attention from the king will silence many grumblers; but we can infer nothing from all this concerning the success of my mission. There is a train of other ceremonies to go through in presentations to the queen, and visits to and from ministers and ambassadors, which will take up much time, and interrupt me in my endeavours to obtain all that I have at heart, the objects of my instructions. Thus it is that the essence of things is lost in ceremony in every country in Europe; we must submit to what we cannot alter—patience is the only remedy.

With great and sincere esteem, I have the honour to be,
dear sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

His majesty, about this period, in order to conciliate the Irish more effectually, created a new order of knighthood, entitled the Order of St. Patrick, but the Irish were not to be appeased by stars and garters, and in many instances the newly created order was treated with the severest ridicule. On this occasion the following lines appeared in one of the Irish papers:

George sends his stars and garters to our land,
We send him ropes to hang his pension'd band.
And having made the crew disgorge their pelf,
He then may, if he pleases, hang himself!

The early part of this year was memorable for the coalition which was formed between lord North and Mr. Fox. Although the nation at first observed the apparent connexion between them with sceptical astonishment, the possibility of it was doubted; and, though it might be supposed that they would probably unite, in order to effect the displacing of the ministers, still it could not be credited that the latter of those statesmen could ever coalesce in administration with the man whose measures he had so often, and so justly, reprobated. In the mean time, the clamours which venal writers had excited against the peace, served to divert their attention from this political phenomenon. It was not long, however, before the nation awaked from its slumber; and the transaction will remain upon record, an awful lesson to all future statesmen. The high and well-earned reputation of Mr. Fox was, at once, annihilated by this fatal error. His past services were obliterated from the remembrance of the people; nor were his strenuous and meritorious exertions afterwards, in the cause of liberty, sufficient entirely to redeem his character.

The indignation which the coalition between lord North and Mr. Fox had universally excited, and particularly among the friends of liberty (who after all are the active party in the nation, and the party most to be regarded by a statesman), though it lay dormant for a while, was ready to burst on the first occasion; and the detestation in which it was held, foreboded but a short duration to the ministry which was formed upon its basis. In this instance the interests and views of the king coincided with those of the people. He felt himself uneasy and dissatisfied under the control of a ministry which had been forced upon him, and the members of which, it is asserted, were not extremely delicate and cautious in their treat-

ment of the sovereign. Both the king and the people, therefore, were equally, it might be said, disposed to desire the dissolution of this obnoxious ministry; and an opportunity presented itself in a short time to emancipate his majesty from his subjugation.

It was in this year that the question of parliamentary reform began seriously to be agitated, and it was brought forward by Mr. Pitt himself, who at a future period exerted his astonishing talents with so much effect in opposition to it. On the 3d of May he brought it before the house, with some specific propositions; of which the first respected the means of preventing bribery and corruption at elections; the second went to the disfranchising of any borough convicted of gross and notorious corruption, and the object of the third was to increase the number of the representatives of counties, and of the metropolis. The proposition Mr. Pitt left to the discretion of the house, but added, that he should recommend one hundred.

The subject was not treated by either side with that depth or clearness which might have been expected from the advanced state of political knowledge; it was scarcely considered at all in an abstract view, and neither the danger on one side of annihilating the energy of that control which a nation ought to exercise over its servants, nor on the other, that of rendering the executive power impermanent and changeable, by weakening its influence in too great a degree, were properly considered. The arguments for a parliamentary reform were chiefly deduced from the errors and corruptions of that administration which had almost ruined the country by the American war, and from the undue influence which it was intimated they had exercised over the parliament, and which it was asserted could only be done when the

state of the representation was unequal and corrupt. On the other side, the danger of touching the venerable fabric of the constitution was chiefly insisted on, and the house was cautioned against indulging visionary and fanciful theories with respect to government. In the course of the debate, Mr. Thomas Pitt voluntarily offered his borough of Old Sarum, if such a sacrifice would tend to confirm the constitution in its strength and purity. Mr. Pitt's resolutions were, however, rejected by a majority of two hundred and ninety-three, to one hundred and forty-nine.

The independence of judges was a subject of at least as much *practical* importance as the reform of parliament, and it was well known to be a subject on which his majesty held very particular opinions. It was brought forward by the duke of Richmond on the 2d of June, when he introduced a motion respecting the great seal being put into commission. His grace stated with irresistible force of good sense and truth, the obvious necessity of making the bench of justice completely independent, as the only means of making it completely incorrupt. Every possibility of exciting either a hope or fear in any of the judges should be entirely precluded. Their salaries should be all upon an equality, their seats permanent, and government should have nothing to bestow upon them when once elevated to that important office. The duke strongly censured the impropriety of mingling the character of a judge with that of a politician, by assigning to them seats in the house of lords. He instanced several cases where such an arrangement had the worst effects, and mentioned certain lord chancellors who before they had seats in the house of lords, had the misfortune frequently to have their decrees reversed, but who never experienced the mortification of a reversal

after they were elevated to the dignity of the peerage.

To the king the coalition of North and Fox was extremely disagreeable, and it is certain that he used every means to prevent them coming into power, but he at length was induced to yield, stipulating for lord Thurlow retaining the chancellorship, and that lord Starmont should be included in the new cabinet. But one of the most extraordinary circumstances attending these negotiations was, that Mr. Pitt actually came into office, and held the situation of first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer for the space of twenty-four hours, but the coalition was too strong in the house of commons to offer any chance of permanence. The king, indeed, appeared not to expect any thing from a new parliament, and a report was current at the time, that he had formed the resolution of visiting Hanover, in order to avoid the unpleasant circumstances of the coalition coming into power; but from this very impolitic step he was properly dissuaded by lord Thurlow, who spoke to him in the plainest terms, reminding him of James the Second, and hinting at the same time that patience might yet remove the threatening evil.

The coalition was unpleasant to the king as well in a personal as a political sense. Lord North had been the companion of his boyhood, and this political connexion for so many years afterwards had raised a strong and mutual attachment in the breasts both of the sovereign and his minister.

Though the late ministry did not retain their power a sufficient time to fulfil the splendid promises of reform, which they had held out to the public, their activity, in this respect, was probably not abated, by being out of office. On the 2d of June, therefore, Mr. W. Pitt

brought in a bill for preventing abuses, and establishing regulations in the treasury, admiralty, ordnance, excise, stamp, and other public offices. In detailing the motives for introducing the present plan of regulation, Mr. Pitt laid open a scene of most wasteful expenditure, and glaring corruption, which had been carried on in these several offices under a late administration.—He mentioned, in pointed terms, the notorious sale of offices and places: he shewed, that in the navy-office it was pretended that they did not receive fees; but, though the name fee was not applied to their emoluments, it appeared, that enormous sums were received, or rather extorted, as *gifts*. The chief clerk of the navy-office had a salary of 250*l.* a-year; but he received in *gifts* to the amount of 2,500*l.*! the other clerks whose salaries were smaller, received gifts in proportion: these gifts Mr. Pitt termed “the wages of corruption.”

In the same manner, the place of secretary to the post-office was legally worth 600*l.* but its profits exceeded 3,000*l.* To these Mr. Pitt added some instances of prodigal expenditure. In the time of lord North, the repairs of the minister's house, in Downing-street, had cost the public, in one year, the enormous sum of *ten thousand pounds*! Bushy-park had also its share of expense. The consumption of stationery wares, by the officers in the different departments of government, might be termed a *depredation* on the public: it exceeded the annual sum of 18,000*l.*—Lord North himself in the year had cost the public 1,300*l.* for stationery; and one article in this bill was most particularly curious, it was an item of no less than 340*l.* for *whipcord*!

When this item of whipcord was shewn to his majesty, he jocosely observed, that he did not know which deserved to be flogged the hardest, the buyer or the seller, and for some

time afterwards he generally designated lord North by the title of “The Dealer in Whipcord.”

His majesty was at this time particularly engaged in forming the arrangements for the establishment of the heir apparent, and in the latter end of June, he sent a message to parliament to settle 50,000*l.* a-year on the prince of Wales, to be paid out of the civil list, and the sum of 60,000*l.* was voted for his immediate expenses.

This establishment of the household of the prince of Wales took place on his coming of age, at which time the coalition ministry was still in power, with the principal members of which party, the prince had been long and intimately associated. The greatest exertions were then made by the majority of the cabinet to procure a yearly settlement for his royal highness of one hundred thousand pounds, but this was opposed by others, and most strongly by the king, who assigned as his reason, that an inexperienced youth ought not to be intrusted with an extravagant income, the diffusion of which would only gratify the cravings of numerous parasites and panders, without adding to his own personal comfort, virtue, or dignity. In proportion, however, as the sovereign was firmly bent upon consenting only to a moderate establishment, so were the persons who called themselves the friends of the prince, resolved to carry this point for the magnificent settlement which they had projected.

When things were driven to an extremity that almost approximated to a change of administration, the prince interposed, and insisted with a spirit which did him infinitely more honour than the utmost grant would have yielded pleasure, that the settlement should be left solely to the discretion of the sovereign. But while he signified his earnest wish that the

whole business should be left to the king, and declared his readiness to accept whatever his majesty might think most proper; he at the same time manifested his regard for those who had so zealously and imprudently advocated his cause, by urging his intreaty that no farther misunderstanding should subsist between the king and his ministers.

It has been stated that the effect of these political contentions was soon visible upon the equanimity of the king's mind, and that he became a prey to habitual dejection—becoming silent, thoughtful, and uncommunicative, instead of his former habits of equality of temper, suavity of manners, and cheerfulness of disposition. It must, however, be taken into the account, that his majesty was now no more the gay impetuous youth—the cares of government had sat for a length of time heavy upon his shoulders—and the loss of his American colonies had affected him deeply. The buoyancy of youth had yielded to the sobriety of age, but that he was still the cheerful companion, and truly attached to the pleasures of domestic life, is visible from the following description of the royal family, inserted in one of Delany's Letters, dated October, 1783.

“ In a few days after our arrival here, the duchess of Portland and I were sitting in the long gallery, very busy with our different employments when, without any ceremony, his majesty walked up to our table unperceived and unknown, till he came quite up to us. You may believe we were at first a little fluttered with his royal presence; but his courteous and affable manner soon made him a welcome guest. He came to inform the duchess of Portland of the queen's perfect recovery after her lying-in, which made him doubly welcome.

“ Breakfast was called for, and after a visit of two hours the king left us. About a week after

this, the king and queen came together, only accompanied by lady Courtown. They breakfasted and stayed much about the same time. The *etiquette* is, that the person, on whom such an honour is conferred, goes the next day to inquire after their majesties; but the queen waved that ceremony, and desired the duchess not to come till she received a summons, as they were going to St. James's for some days. Last Thursday, 2d of October, a little before twelve o'clock, word was brought that the royal family were coming up the park: and immediately after, two coaches and six, with the king on horseback, and a great retinue, came up to the hall door. The company were, the king and queen, princess royal, princess Augusta, princess Elizabeth, princess Mary, and princess Sophia,—a lovely group, all dressed in white muslin polonoises, white chip hats and white feathers, except the queen, who had on a black hat and cloak;—the king dressed in his Windsor uniform of blue and gold; the queen, attended by the duchess of Ancaster, who is mistress of the robes, and lady Elizabeth Waldegrave, who attends the two eldest princesses, and Mrs. Goldsworthy, who is sub-governess to the three younger princesses. The king had no attendants but the equerries, major Digby and major Price. They were in the drawing-room before I was sent for, where I found the king and queen and duchess of Portland seated at a table in the middle of the room. The king, with his usual graciousness, came up to me, and brought me forward, and I found the queen very busy in shewing a very elegant machine to the duchess of Portland, which was a frame for weaving of fringe, of a new and most delicate structure, and would take up as much paper as has already been written upon to describe it minutely, yet it is of such simplicity as to be very useful. You will easily imagine the grate-

ful feeling I had when the queen presented it to me, to make up some knotted fringe which she saw me about. The king, at the same time, said he must contribute something to my work, and presented me with a gold knotting shuttle, of most exquisite workmanship and taste; and I am at this time, while I am dictating the letter, knotting white silk, to fringe the bag which is to contain it.

"On the Monday after, we were appointed to go to the lodge at Windsor, at two o'clock. We were first taken into the duchess of An-caster's dressing-room; in a quarter of an hour after, to the king and queen in the drawing-room, who had nobody with them but prince Alverstaden, the Hanoverian minister, which gave me an opportunity of hearing the queen speak German; and I may say, it was the first time I had received pleasure from what I did not understand; but there was such a fluency and sweetness in her manner of speaking it, that it sounded as gentle as Italian.

"There were two chairs brought in, for the duchess of Portland and myself to sit on, (by order of their majesties,) which were easier than those belonging to the room.—We were seated near the door that opened into the concert-room. The king directed them to play Handel and Geminiani's music, which he was graciously pleased to say was to gratify me. These are flattering honours. I should not indulge so much upon this subject, but that I depend upon your considering it proceeding more from gratitude than vanity.—The three eldest princesses came into the room in about half an hour after we were seated. All the royal family were dressed in a uniform for the *demi-saison*, of a violet-blue armozine, gauze aprons, &c. &c.: the queen had the addition of a great many fine pearls.

"When the concert of music was over, the

young princess Amelia, nine weeks old, was sent for, and brought in by her nurse and attendants. The king took her in his arms, and presented her to the duchess of Portland and to me. Your affectionate heart would have been delighted with the royal domestic scene; an example worthy of imitation by all ranks, and, indeed, adding dignity to their high station."

It must, however, be admitted that his majesty received very few visitors at this time, lord Liverpool and lord Thurlow being the only two confidentially admitted, and to the latter must be in a great degree attributed the magnanimity which his majesty exercised in regard to the odious coalition which at this time appeared to domineer not only over the king and lords, but the nation at large. Frequent attempts were made to induce the king to create some new peers with the view of strengthening the hands of the ministry, but he preserved his firmness, and lord Thurlow's prognostication that the impetuosity and imprudence of Fox would speedily put an end to the coalition, was now on the point of being verified.

The parliament met on the 11th of November, and the first object that naturally attracted the attention of the ministry was, the affairs of the India Company. The difficulty of forming any practicable plan for the management of our important possessions in the East, would have embarrassed the most upright minister, considering the singular and perplexing difficulties with which it is beset. It must, however, be admitted that the plan suggested by the coalition was not devised upon principles of patriotism, but that the apparent aim of the ministry was, the perpetuating their power, at least for some years, by placing the patronage of India in the hands of their connexions and dependants, but it is not proved that the bill would have had that fatal influence on the prin-

ciples of the constitution which was predicted.

The permanent features of Mr. Fox's celebrated India bill were the annihilation of the court of directors—the whole government of the India Company, as heretofore exercised by the court of directors, being vested for the space of four years in seven commissioners, with the assistance of nine directors, who were each to be possessed of at least two thousand pounds stock, and to act in a subordinate capacity to the seven commissioners. The directors might be removed for any specified cause, by five of the commissioners, and any of the commissioners might be dismissed by the king, on an address from either house of parliament. Thus the whole patronage of India was by this bill to have been vested in the commissioners, and those commissioners were to be appointed by the ministry. In the hands of an administration which had been formed on a less exceptionable basis, the bill would have excited but little apprehension or opposition in the nation. Its failure can only be attributed to the universal detestation which the coalition had attracted from all ranks of men; and the true explanation of the clamour which succeeded on the occasion is, that the great majority of the people embraced the first opportunity to express their dissatisfaction at what was universally considered as an abandonment of principle; and their resentment against the parties which formed the obnoxious union, was directed against their measures.

During the progress of the India bill through the house of commons, the public sentiment was evinced by a number of petitions against the measure from the most respectable quarters. The bill was notwithstanding carried with triumph through the lower house; but, in the mean time, a blow was meditated, which at

length entirely interrupted its progress, and effected the dissolution of the coalition ministry.

The king had hitherto remained a passive spectator of the proceedings of ministry relative to the affairs of India; but either the debates of parliament had awakened his jealousy for the royal prerogative, or the petitions which had been presented against the India bill, and the apparent temper of the nation, had raised his hopes of being able to extricate himself from a state which, probably, had long been uneasy to his feelings; a state of subjection to a ministry, who had evidently been forced upon him. On the 9th of December, the bill having passed the commons by a great majority, was presented to the lords. On the 11th, earl Temple had a private conference with his majesty on the subject of the measure then depending in parliament.—The king on this occasion, signified his entire disapprobation of the India bill, and authorized lord Temple to signify to the individual lords, “that he should deem those who should vote for it, not only not his friends, but his enemies; and that if lord Temple could put this in stronger words, he had full authority to do it.” The bill was read a first time that same evening, and was opposed, but without a division. The second reading, on the 15th of December, served to confirm the reports concerning the interference of lord Temple. Several peers, who had intrusted their proxies to the minister, withdrew them only a few hours before the meeting of the house; and, on a motion for an adjournment, the ministers were left in a minority of seventy-nine against eighty-seven.

The 17th of December was to determine finally the fate of the India bill. In the mean time, some warm debates took place in the house of commons, relative to the reports which

had been promulgated of the interference of earl Temple; and a strong resolution was passed, importing "that to report any opinion, or pretended opinion, of his majesty upon any bill or proceeding depending in either house of parliament, with a view to influence the votes of the members, is a high crime and misdemeanor." It was also resolved, that on the Monday following, the house should resolve itself into a committee "to take into consideration the present state of the nation;" and these were followed by a motion, the intent of which was, to guard against a premature dissolution of parliament.

The India bill was rejected, as was expected, by the lords; and the following night, December 18th, at twelve o'clock, a message was delivered to each of the secretaries of state from his majesty, ordering them to deliver up the seals of their office to the under-secretaries, as a personal interview would not be agreeable. The following day, letters of dismissal were sent to the other members of the cabinet; and the seals were given to lord Temple, as secretary of state, which, however, he soon after resigned, on the plea that, as he was considered by the late ministry as peculiarly obnoxious on account of the part he had taken, he wished in his private capacity, and unprotected by the influence of office, to answer any charges that might be preferred against him.

Notwithstanding this apparent desertion of the noble earl, the new administration was completed within the course of a few days. Mr. W. Pitt was appointed first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer; earl Gower, president of the council; lord Sydney, and the marquis of Carmarthen, secretaries of state; lord Thurlow, chancellor; the duke of Rutland, lord privy seal; lord Howe, first lord of the admiralty; the duke of Richmond, master of

the ordnance; and these great officers constituted the cabinet council. Lord Mulgrave and Mr. Grenville succeeded Mr. Burke in the pay-office, and Mr. Henry Dundas was appointed treasurer of the navy.

No measure could have been more popular than the dismissal of the coalition ministry; addresses of thanks and approbation to his majesty flowed in from all parts of the kingdom, and became at length so universal, that upon no occasion whatever was the sense of the people at large more clearly, strongly, and unequivocally ascertained. In this the city of London took the lead, and in their address said, "Your faithful citizens lately beheld with infinite concern the progress of a measure which equally tended to encroach on the rights of your majesty's crown; to annihilate the chartered rights of the East India company; and to raise a new power unknown to this free government, and highly inimical to its safety. As this dangerous measure was warmly supported by your majesty's late ministers, we heartily rejoice in their dismissal, and humbly thank your majesty for exerting your prerogative in a manner so salutary and constitutional."

The situation in which the new ministry commenced their official career, was new and singular in the annals of this country; at least no instance had occurred, since the revolution, of an administration formed by the crown, in immediate opposition to the majority of the house of commons. A series of tumultuous debates and violent motions succeeded, which it would be nugatory minutely to detail. The land-tax bill was deferred, as a security against the dissolution of parliament; and on the 22d of December, the house being in a committee on the state of the nation, an address to his majesty was resolved on to the same effect, and was presented on the 24th. The king's answer was

as follows; and it reflects no uncommon lustre upon his regal character:

Gentlemen,

It has been my constant object to employ the authority entrusted to me by the constitution to its true and only end—the good of my people; and I am always happy in concurring with the wishes and opinions of my faithful commons.

I agree with you in thinking that the support of the public credit and revenue must demand your most earnest and vigilant care. The state of the East Indies is also an object of as much delicacy and importance as can exercise the wisdom and justice of parliament. I trust you will proceed in these considerations with all convenient speed, after such an adjournment as the present circumstances may seem to require: and I assure you I shall not interrupt your meeting by any exercise of my prerogative, either of prorogation or dissolution.

It was in the course of this year that the late lord Nelson was first introduced at court by lord Hood, and his majesty paid him the most marked attention, especially as he had been honoured with the personal friendship of prince William.

In the winter their majesties also entered warmly into the public enthusiasm excited at this time by the first tragic actress of the stage, Mrs. Siddons; she acted several times by royal command, and from that time his majesty paid her the most marked attention, being often invited to Buckingham-house to read some of the most celebrated passages of our dramatic authors before the royal family.

A curious anecdote has been related of the

king regarding the events of this period; when Mr. Pitt preserved his place as premier, notwithstanding all the efforts of the opposition, though their numbers had increased to such a degree, that they had a majority of one hundred votes against him, whilst he retained his power for six weeks in despite of them, under the firm hope that a sense of true patriotism would finally triumph over the factious spirit of party. At length the majority against him still continuing to increase, he said to his majesty, “Sir, I am mortified to see that my perseverance has been of no avail, and that I must resign at last.” “If so,” replied the king, “I must resign too.”* Lord Thurlow then advised his majesty to dissolve the parliament, and thereby take the sense of the nation against the legislative oligarchy.

The year 1784 opened with the most violent political convulsions, and indeed his majesty’s own opinion of the critical state of the country, may be ascertained from the following answer, which he gave to the archbishops and bishops, on addressing him according to annual custom on the 1st of January.

My Lords,

I return you my thanks for this dutiful and loyal address, and you may always depend upon my warmest zeal for, and constant protection of, the church.

I also return you my thanks for your congratulations on the commencement of the new year; the commencement of this year may probably be the most critical and important of any yet in the annals of this country: it has,

* His majesty had nearly lost this faithful servant in the course of the summer, Mr. Pitt having narrowly escaped being shot by a gardener near Wandsworth. The circumstance was shortly as follows:—Mr. Pitt dined that day with Mr. Jenkinson, and returned to town in a post carriage; but the boy blundering out of the main road, and not being able to find his way back, Mr. Pitt was induced to go to the next farm-house, to be rightly informed; the dogs, however, making an alarm, the man of the house came out with a loaded gun, and insisted on Mr. Pitt’s standing still, on pain of being fired at. Mr. Pitt pleaded and expostulated in vain, till at length the farmer actually fired at him; and the bullet went through the loose part of his coat, but happily without doing any injury. The post-boy, hearing the explosion, ran to the spot; and his appearance, together with Mr. Pitt’s arguments, at length so far prevailed on the farmer, that the chancellor was permitted to withdraw; and his antagonist gave him every necessary instruction to find out the main road to town.

from my accession to the throne of these realms, been my constant study equally to preserve the rights, liberties and happiness of my people, with the prerogatives and rights which the constitution hath intrusted to me; it is my determined resolution to persevere in this conduct, in which I trust I may have the protection of the Almighty, and the support of every honest man in my dominions.

In this situation of affairs, nothing could have enabled the ministry to support the unequal contest with the house of commons, but the voice of the people, which was expressed in the strongest and most unequivocal terms of disapprobation of the coalition and the measures they had pursued. The city of London led the way, and this address was in the course of little more than six weeks, followed by one hundred and twenty others from different counties, towns, and corporate bodies, approving of the late appointment of ministers, and many of them urging a dissolution of parliament. On the 26th of January, a meeting was held at the St. Alban's tavern, of fifty-three members of the house of commons, when addresses to the duke of Portland and Mr. Pitt were drawn up and signed, recommending a coalition of the whig party. At the same time private negotiations were instituted, and some patriotic noblemen in particular warmly interested themselves in this important and desirable arrangement. As even the coalition itself had not the imprudence or the effrontery to bring forward lord Sandwich in any ostensible situation, Mr. Pitt objected to only *one* of the opposite party, and that one being lord North, his lordship had the magnanimity to declare, that "for the sake of his country, he was ready to make the sacrifice which was required, and therefore would not stand in the way of the union."

The king, as the sequel will testify, was, in this instance made the dupe of the intriguing party, as a negotiation was pretended to be

carried on under the sanction of his pleasure, which was, in fact, nothing more than an artifice of the opposite party to lull their opponents to sleep; and indeed there was more pride than prudence in the Portland party, while the conduct of their adversaries was directed by the most consummate policy. As the great difficulty that remained after the self-denying declaration of lord North lay in the declaration of the duke of Portland, that no negotiation could be instituted till Mr. Pitt had resigned: the last expedient suggested by the St. Alban's association was, that the duke should be requested by his majesty to have a personal conference with Mr. Pitt, for the purpose of forming a new administration. In compliance therefore with the requisition, a message was delivered from the chancellor of the exchequer to his grace, in which he signified his majesty's earnest desire, that his grace should have a personal conference with Mr. Pitt, for the purpose of forming a new administration on a wide basis, and on *fair* and equal terms. With this message the duke of Portland declared himself perfectly satisfied as to the mode proposed, but wished to have the terms more directly explained. To the word *fair* he could not object, as it was a general term, but the word *equal* was more specific and limited, and therefore he wished to know from Mr. Pitt the particular sense which he intended that word to convey. To this Mr. Pitt replied, that a personal conference was the proper opportunity for explanations. Two other proposals were made by the duke; the first, that he should be permitted to construe the message to imply a *virtual resignation*; the second, that he might receive *his majesty's commands from his sovereign in person*; but both proposals were rejected. Thus ended all hopes of a reunion of the whig interest, and the meeting of the St. Albans' closed

their efforts, with declaring their infinite concern that all further progress towards a union was prevented by a doubt respecting a single word.

A very fine satirical poem was written on this occasion, and which was dedicated to his majesty. It began—

What dire events from trivial causes flow,
The whigs of England to their sorrow know.

This was soon after parodied in another poem, beginning—

What dire events from Portland-blocks* can flow,
A king can tell, and all the commons know.

His majesty, after the perusal of these two poems, was heard to exclaim, "it is, after all, nothing more than tweedle dum, and tweedle dee."

While the house of commons was proceeding in strong votes, for the purpose of unsettling the ministry, and were threatening to withhold the supplies, and reject the annual mutiny act, the house of lords, who, till the beginning of February, had been an inactive spectator of the contest, proceeded to vote two strong resolutions, the one indirectly censuring the votes of the commons relative to the issuing of the public money, and the other asserting the undoubted prerogative of the crown to appoint its subordinate officers. To refuse the supplies, was, however, apparently too strong a measure to hazard in the then temper of the people, and the commons contented themselves with preferring three successive addresses to the throne, intreating his majesty to remove all impediments to the formation of a strong and stable administration, and pressing, with this view, the dismissal of the ministers. His majesty's answers rested in general on the argu-

ment, that no specific charges of criminality had been advanced against the ministers; that a great proportion of the people had expressed their satisfaction at the change of his majesty's counsels, and that he could not dismiss his present ministers till he saw a prospect of affecting such a union as the house had recommended.

The vote of censure which was passed upon the ministers, afflicted his majesty exceedingly, and when the intelligence was brought to the queen, her agitation is represented to have been excessive. Lady Egremont attempted to sooth her, but she said, "that the king was so hurt at the heat, violence, and interestedness of parties, that he had, literally speaking, not a moment's peace; nor did she believe he would experience any, while the present contention of parties continued."

The celebrated motion of Mr. Fox for a committee to inquire into the state of the nation, did not tend by any means to tranquillize his majesty's mind, as in almost all the resolutions that were moved, his ministers were left in a minority. One of the resolutions moved by lord Surrey, was so directly pointed against the new ministry, that to get rid of it, Mr. Dundas moved, that the Chairman do leave the chair. The following was the resolution:

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the late changes in his Majesty's councils, were immediately preceded by dangerous and universal reports, that his majesty's sacred name had been unconstitutionally abused to affect the deliberations of parliament, and that the appointments made, were accompanied by circumstances new and extraordinary, and such as do not conciliate or engage the confidence of this house.

The king was so excessively anxious to know the result of the debate on the above resolution,

* Alluding to the Portland stone, which was then much used in building.

that he signified to the minister, that he should not think of repose till he knew the division. Some of the treasury riders were accordingly kept in waiting to set off at a moment's warning for Windsor. Even the prince of Wales did not appear less anxious: his highness took his station under the gallery of the house, and remained there till the division took place. He afterwards adjourned with a party of the opposition.

Lord Surrey's resolution was carried by a majority of fifty-four against the ministers, and it was no sooner reported to his majesty, than he declared he did not see how the affairs of the country could be carried on, with such a powerful and triumphant opposition against the ministers. It must, however, be observed that in voting on the successive addresses to his majesty, the opposition was observed gradually to lose ground, even in the house: the first was carried on the 20th of February by a majority of twenty-one, the second was voted on the 21st of March by a majority of only twelve, and on the 8th of the same month the votes were only one hundred and ninety-one, to one hundred and ninety. But, by whatever means this change in the opposition was effected, it ended in the complete triumph of the ministry, and, on the 24th of March the parliament was prorogued, and on the following day dissolved by proclamation.

The event of the elections evinced, in a most striking manner, the execration in which the coalition was universally held. The real whig party throughout the nation, those who had been inimical to the American war, exerted successfully their usual activity; and even in many places where the aristocratic interest was supposed to be irreversible, from the strong exertions made by the independent electors, the result of the poll was such as astonished and disappointed the candidates of that party.

Among the different descriptions of men in this country, the most steady, though perhaps not always the most judicious, friends of liberty and of the constitution, have been the Protestant dissenters. They had invariably opposed the American war, as being founded upon an unconstitutional principle, *viz.*, taxation without representation. By long habit they had been attached to the family and the party of lord Chatham. They contemplated with enthusiasm the rising abilities of his son; and his fair professions of reform, and his active endeavours to procure a more equal representation of the people in parliament, had served more strongly to attach them. They abhorred the coalition; and the present they considered as a constitutional struggle against a parliament, who set at defiance the wishes and the instructions of their constituents. They considered the appointment of ministers as the undoubted prerogative of the crown, subject only to the control of parliament, and responsible to the public for their conduct; and the appeal from the house of commons, to the judgement of the people at large, was regarded as the triumph of liberty over faction and aristocracy. These powerful auxiliaries, added to the natural influence of the crown, secured in most instances the success of the new ministers and their connexions. Upwards of one hundred and sixty members lost their seats; and of these, almost the whole number were the friends of the late administration.

A strong proof of the liberality which actuated his majesty's mind was exemplified at this time, on the occasion of a bag of most noxious ingredients being thrown at Mr. Fox, during the Westminster meeting, which having been submitted to the examination of several of the most celebrated chemists of the day, were declared to be capsicum and euphorbium; the activity of

the latter ingredient was declared by Mr. Stock of Ludgate-hill, to be so great that a very small quantity of it reaching the stomach of any person, might produce the most fatal consequences. A reward of 200*l.* was immediately offered to any person who would detect the person who actually threw the bag, to which sum his majesty in the most liberal manner added another hundred, saying, "That although Mr. Fox was politically opposed to him, yet he would always show his detestation of any attempt to thwart the measures of political men, by such base and wicked measures."

Another most singular circumstance occurred at this time, which was the theft of the great seal, and which was supposed by many to have a reference to the dissolution of parliament. It was on the 23d of May that some thieves broke into the back part of the house, inhabited by the lord chancellor, in Great Ormond-street, having got over the wall, from the fields, into the garden, and from thence into the area, they forced two bars of the kitchen window, and entered the house; having thus gained an entrance, they went up stairs, into a room adjoining the study, broke open several drawers belonging to his lordship's writing-table, and at last came to the drawer in which the great seal of England was deposited; this they took out from the two bags in which it is always kept, carrying away with them the plain seal only, or rather the two parts which constitute the whole; they also took a sum of money, not very considerable, and two silver hilted swords, having first drawn them, and leaving the scabbards behind. Not one of his lordship's servants heard them during their stay, and of course they got off with rather more ease than they got in. These midnight robbers left behind them their implement of industry, a plain tool well tempered, and calcu-

lated as well for a weapon of defence (if opposed) as an instrument for forcing of locks.

The great seal being really stolen, it was a doubt with many, whether there was not a virtual end, for a time, to the office of chancellor.—The following passage from Blackstone will not be wholly unapplicable to the question.—"The office of chancellor or lord keeper, is with us, at this day, created by the mere delivery of the king's great seal into his custody; whereby he becomes, without writ or patent, an officer of the greatest weight and power of any now subsisting in the kingdom; and superior in point of precedency, to every temporal lord."

The inconvenience attending this extraordinary affair was however soon obviated by a new one, which was finished next day the 25th, and authorized to be used by an order in council and delivered to the chancellor.

At the Court at the Queen's House, the 25th of March, 1784.

PRESENT—The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

A new great seal of Great Britain having been prepared by his majesty's chief engraver of seals, in pursuance of a warrant to him for that purpose, under his majesty's royal signature; and the same having been this day presented to his majesty in council, and approved; his majesty was thereupon graciously pleased to deliver the said new seal to the right honourable Edward lord Thurlow, lord high chancellor of Great Britain, and to direct that the same shall be made use of for sealing all things whatsoever which pass the great seal.

STEPHEN COTTRELL.

The grand festival in commemoration of Handel, took place in Westminster-Abbey on the 26th of May. His majesty looked forward to this grand spectacle with the most enthusiastic feelings, and scarcely a day elapsed in which he had not a conference with some of the directors, regarding the general arrangement of the songs, chorusses, and other subor-

dinate features of the festival. By seven in the morning of the 26th, the several door-ways of the Abbey were thronged with subscribers of both sexes, who thought no sacrifice of time too great for a priority of situation at a concert so grand and novel, and by half after ten every gallery was full. At the end of the aisle adjoining the organ, a throne was erected in the gothic style, and a centre box fitted up for the reception of the royal family; on one side of which was a box for the bishops and prebends of Westminster, on the other for the foreign ambassadors—immediately below the king's box was another for the directors. Behind the throne were seats for their majesties' attendants. At half-past twelve their majesties and the royal family entered the Abbey at the east door, and accompanied by the bishop of Rochester as dean of Westminster. His majesty first visited the tomb of Handel, after which, preceded by the prebends and other clerical orders of the church, they entered the choir by the altar, walked down it in procession, and ascended to the royal gallery, when the entertainment of the morning immediately commenced with the coronation anthem.

When the king entered the royal box, the *coup-d'œil* was so grand and impressive, that he stood for a short time as if rapt in wonder—he appeared lost in an ecstasy of astonishment, and addressing himself to the queen, said, “This will amply repay me for months of political disquietude.”

The number of the performers and singers amounted on this occasion to 482, and, it is impossible to describe the effect which the first crash of the different instruments had upon the audience. Every part of the Abbey appeared to vibrate with the sound, and his majesty, as if involuntarily, lifted up his hands, and his whole soul appeared to be rapt in the heavenly

harmony which floated around him, an enthusiastic devotion shone in his eye, and he appeared as if transported to another world, in which the harps of “the thousands” were tuning the praises of their Maker. In fine, the performance in point of execution was grand and sublime beyond all conception, and each part of it was so uniformly excellent, that the most discerning ear could scarcely discover where the most praise was due.

The second performance was on the following day at the Pantheon, which, although fitted up in the most splendid manner for the occasion, was yet deprived of a great portion of its effect, by the comparison with the solemn and impressive grandeur of Westminster-abbey.

A spacious projecting gallery, on painted columns, in imitation of the porphyry ones which support the building, was erected over the great door for the reception of their majesties and the rest of the royal family. A state gallery appeared in the centre thereof, with seats for the king and queen under a lofty canopy, adorned with the crimson and gold decorations from the Abbey, the dome of which was richly gilt, and relieved by the supporters of the royal arms. Elegant compartments of the same box were reserved for the princess royal, and the junior branches of the family.

The number of tickets issued for this occasion was limited to 2,400, the utmost that could be issued from the smallness of the place.

His majesty arrived soon after eight, going privately through the secretary's office, and ascending to the royal box by the stone staircase adjoining the octagon room. The three elder princesses came in company. The princess royal sat on the right hand of their majesties, and the princess Elizabeth and Augusta on the left. It was remarked, that the prince

of Wales did not honour their majesties with his company.

As soon as the royal audience were seated, the concert began with the hautboy concerto of *Sorge infausta*, from Orlando.

The third performance, at the particular command of his majesty, was held in Westminster-abbey on the 30th of May, and was, if possible, more sublime than any of the preceding. It was the matchless composition of the *Messiah*, and never were its heavenly chorusses performed with such unexampled precision. When Madame Mara began that inimitable air, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," his majesty, impelled by the intensity of his feelings, rose from his seat; but suddenly recollecting himself, on seeing that many others were about to follow his example, he immediately resumed his seat. His majesty appeared enraptured with the whole performance, and on his departure, he declared to one of the directors, that it had been one of the highest enjoyments of his life. The oratorio ended a little before four, when their majesties took their departure in a very gracious manner. The royal family retired from the audience with every demonstration of politeness; the youngest princess, not accustomed to such meetings, was prompted by the princess royal to make her obeisance; it, however, unfortunately happened, that the front of the state-box was nearly as high as the princess's chin, so that her head was invisible for a time. The princess royal could not restrain the laugh so much provoked, and every lip wore a smile.

It was originally intended that there should be only three oratorios, but his majesty was so highly pleased with them, that he expressly ordered a fourth, and her majesty a fifth. In regard to the latter, some very interesting particulars are transmitted by Dr. Burney, who

states, "that although the crowd was less than at the preceding performances, the exhibition was more splendid. Indeed as a spectacle, it was so magnificent a sight, and as a musical performance so grateful to the ear, that no description can do justice to its merits."

Dr. Burney further states, that there was a great improvement in the manner of executing a particular chorus, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates!" On the preceding days, the alternate semi-chorusses were performed by all the voices belonging to each part; but on this occasion, in order to heighten the contrast, by only three of the principal singers, till about the thirty-third bar, when the whole chorus from each side of the orchestra, joined by all the instruments, burst out, "He is the king of glory!" which had an effect so impressive, as to bring tears into the eyes of several of the performers, and a number of ladies fainted from the overpowering force of the harmony. Nor was this effect confined alone to the orchestra. His majesty's feelings were evidently much affected, and he made a signal for its repetition, and also the final chorus in the last part.

A medal was struck on this occasion, which was worn by the directors on the days of performance, on one side of which was engraved, "From harmony, from heavenly harmony, this universal frame began." His majesty not only condescended to accept one of these medals, but actually to wear it in compliment to the dead and the living.

The receipts of the several performances, amounted to above 12,000 guineas, 500 of which were generously given by his majesty.

His majesty's birth-day was this year celebrated with the usual demonstrations of joy, and the drawing-room was the most superb which had been known for many years. The birth-day ode was in the usual style of White-

head, with scarcely a scintillation of poetical merit, to render it worthy of insertion.

The clergy of this country began now to observe with alarm the steps which were taking in Ireland to procure the emancipation of the Roman Catholics, and at the convocation of the archbishops, bishops and clergy, held at Canterbury, in the month of June, it was resolved to present the following address to his majesty, which was accordingly presented on the 9th of June:

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the archbishop, bishops, and clergy, of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, beg leave to approach your royal presence with those sentiments of veneration and respectful attachment, which are but a just return for your majesty's unwearied exertions for the public welfare.

It is with the utmost satisfaction we embrace every opportunity of professing to your majesty and to the world, our deep sense of all the blessings we enjoy under your mild and auspicious government: but we should be unmindful of our character as ministers of the gospel, if we omitted to express our warmest acknowledgements for that firm support of our holy religion, as by law established, which your majesty hath so much at heart, and of which we experience the most convincing proofs in your protection, and from your example.

We trust that we prize these blessings as we ought: but we are sensible that no expressions of duty on our part will be so acceptable to your majesty, as the assurance of our earnest endeavours, in our respective stations, to advance the glory of God, and the good of mankind, by the promotion of true christian piety and virtue; remembering always, that obedience to civil government must have its root in the fear of God; that it must be propagated, nourished, and preserved by religion.

By such means we shall best approve ourselves faithful pastors and good citizens, dutiful subjects of your majesty, and true lovers of our country's interests, which whoever would divide can be a friend to neither.

May the Almighty, from whom princes derive not only their authority, but their sufficiency also for the exercise

of it, proportion his assistance to the difficulties with which such a situation is encompassed. May he continue, out of his goodness to this nation, to protect and preserve you; to crown with success your endeavours for the public service, and requite them with the willing obedience of a grateful people.

May your majesty's reign over us be long and happy; each succeeding year being marked with the blessings of peace, and public prosperity, and with every additional circumstance of domestic felicity.

To which address his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

I thank you for this very dutiful and affectionate address.

I receive, with pleasure, your expressions of zeal for our holy religion, and your assurances of your earnest endeavours to advance the glory of God, and the good of mankind, by the promotion of true christian piety and virtue.

I shall ever continue to support, to the utmost of my power, the Church of England, as by law established, as well as the religious and civil rights of my people.

This answer of his majesty gave particular umbrage to the advocates for Catholic emancipation in Ireland, and a meeting of the citizens of Dublin took place on the 21st June, for the purpose of addressing his majesty, who, after enumerating a number of political grievances, in language not of the most temperate kind, the petitioners state—

We farther intreat your majesty's permission to condemn that remnant of the penal code of laws, which still oppresses our Roman Catholic fellow subjects—laws which tend to prohibit education and liberality, restrain certain privileges, and to proscribe industry, love of liberty, and patriotism.

And whilst we thus contend, as far as in us lies, for our constitutional rights and privileges, we recommend to your consideration the state of our suffering fellow-subjects, the Roman Catholics of this kingdom; whose emancipation from the restraints under which they still labour, we consider not only as equitable, but essentially conducive to the general union and prosperity of the kingdom.

f Trusting with the most perfect confidence in your concurrence and support, we entertain the strongest hopes of freeing our country from that yoke of bondage, which domestic enemies have thus imposed on it. The majesty of the people will then re-assume its proper influence in the guidance of the State—and Divine Providence, knowing the justice of our cause, will graciously assist us in obtaining those rights to which we are entitled by the laws of God and nature.

His majesty, at the dissolution of the parliament, had excited in a particular manner the acrimony of a certain portion of the house of commons, who decried in the most intemperate language this exercise of the royal prerogative; and in the month of June, Mr. Burke made a specific motion in the house, which had for its aim to circumscribe the king in the exercise of that authority, which is confirmed to him by the constitution of the country; he concluded his speech in the following singular manner. Having produced his motion, which consisted of many sheets of paper folded like a lawyer's brief, and which set the house into a loud and universal fit of laughter, he observed, that he meant his motion as an epitaph on his departed friend, the last parliament: that he always wrote long epitaphs to the memory of those that had been dear to him; and on the present occasion, he chose to follow the corpse to the sepulchre, and go through the ceremony of saying, "Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust!" in sure and certain hopes, through the merits of the good works of the last parliament, that it would have a glorious and joyful resurrection, and become immortal.

Mr. Wyndham seconded the motion, and Mr. Burke having read a few words of it *pro forma*, it was handed to the speaker, who was more than an hour before he got through it.

The motion was negatived without a division.

The civil list was again in arrear, and on the 21st July, Mr. Pitt presented the following message from the king to the house of commons:

GEORGE REX.

It gives his majesty great concern, that notwithstanding the retrenchments which have been already made in the establishment of the civil list, he finds himself under the necessity of acquainting the house of commons, that debts have been incurred by the unavoidable expenses of his civil government, to a considerable amount, an account of which he has ordered to be laid before this house.

His majesty relies on the zeal and affection of his faithful commons, that they will take the same into consideration, and provide such means as they shall think proper, to enable his majesty to discharge the same.

G. R.

The same was ordered to be referred to a committee of supply.

His majesty's message was taken into consideration on the 23rd July, when Mr. Pitt stated, "that the arrears were occasioned during the late administration, the first quarter being 1,300*l.*, the second 7,000*l.*, the third 8,000*l.*, and the fourth 5,000*l.*, making a sum total of 44,000*l.*; and as there might arise occasion during the approaching recess of parliament for further aid, he should move a resolution, that the sum of 60,000*l.* be granted to his majesty, for the discharge of the debts due upon the civil list."

This gave rise to rather a warm debate, but it was happily closed by sir Edward Astley, declaring, there was no necessity for making so many words about it, for the fact was, the the money should be paid, *quicquid delirant reges, pluitur et achivi*.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Towards the close of this session of parliament, a very popular measure was carried into effect, namely, the restoration of the estates

which had been forfeited in the rebellion of 1745. This measure was proposed in the house by Mr. Dundas, and although it was opposed in the house of lords by lord Thurlow, it was ultimately carried.

The following are a few of the noblemen and gentlemen who forfeited their estates in 1745, which were to be restored to their heirs, except the first, which had been previously restored:—Simon, lord Lovat; lord John Drummond, brother to the earl, commonly called duke of Perth; George earl of Cromarty; Archibald M'Donald, son of colonel M'Donald of Barisdale; Donald Cameron of Lochiel; Charles Stewart of Ardshiel; Donald M'Donald of Kinloch Moydart; Evan M'Pherson of Clunie; Francis Buchanan of Arnprior; Donald M'Donald of Lochgary; Allan Cameron of Monaltry, and Alexander M'Donald of Keppoch. Lord M'Leod is son and heir to the earl of Cromarty.

A most violent petition was presented to the house of lords by lord George Gordon against the bill, but its very violence defeated the aim of the petitioner. A number of irrelevant subjects were introduced into the petition, amongst which, was the state of the Irish, in consequence of their attachment to the Protestant interest, and whose only reward was houghing, and tarring and feathering. This petition, however, had little effect, for the measure itself originated with his majesty; there were, however, some very particular

clauses in this restoration bill, which specified that they were not to descend to the heirs without certain provisos, and which in the end had a reference to the public utility. Mr. Dundas in the first place, proposed that the estates on their restoration, should descend to those heirs, whether male or female, to whom they would have gone in a regular and legal course of descent, in case no act of rebellion had been committed by the ancestors; but he did not mean that they should get their lands in better condition, than they should have had them, if no forfeiture had taken place, for that would be giving a premium for rebellion; he proposed, therefore, that they should get them, subject to the debts that were upon them when they fell into the hands of government, and the money that should thus come to the public, should be employed in completing the navigation or canal, which was to join the Frith of Forth with the Frith of Clyde, a work which would run from sea to sea. The produce of the dividends that would hereafter be made to the subscribers for carrying on this great work, in which the public would have 500,000*l.* stock, would relieve the nation from the payment of 5,000*l.* voted for the repairs of the highland roads. Mr. Dundas in further illustration of this subject; stated, that the rent roll of the estates, would exceed *nine thousand a year*, at the expiration of some leases, whereas, at that time they only yielded *four thousand* *;

* We are totally at a loss to conceive how Mr. Dundas could have uttered such a manifest falsehood in the house, without he had in view to depreciate the value of the forfeited estates, and thereby render them a matter of minor consideration to the revenue of the kingdom. He declared the public received no more than 4,000*l.* a year from the forfeited estates. *What became of the remainder?* We know well that one estate alone in Perthshire, yielded at the restoration above 4000*l.* per annum—the aggregate sum of the whole forfeited estates together, as declared in parliament; and the public are well able to tell what benefit has been derived to them in the prosecution of the roads and the canals of Scotland, from the restoration of the forfeited estates. The navigation of the Union canal, would have been carried only a few miles, if any dependence had been placed upon the funds from the forfeited estates, and the late frequent votes in parliament, made in aid of the highland roads and other national works in the north are decisive, that the only persons who are benefited by the restoration of the estates, are the proprietors themselves, for the public are out of the question.

but Mr. Dundas, with a view of anticipating any objection which might be raised to this small income of the estates, declared, that the gentlemen who sat at the board of management of the forfeited estates, were entirely free from blame, and with the view of convincing the house that he was correct in that declaration, he avowed that he himself was one of those gentlemen, and that the surplus of the revenue of the estates, had been applied to the erection of a noble pile of buildings, for the repository of the records of Scotland; and that unless such pile had been built the records would have been *totally, irrecoverably, and irretrievably lost*.

On his majesty's being informed of this very cogent argument which Mr. Dundas had used for the forfeited estates, he jocosely remarked, that if the erection of a pile of buildings were the only benefit to accrue to the nation from the restoration of the estates, it were a matter of very little moment whether they were not *totally, irrecoverably, and irretrievably lost*. But this erection of the record-office was not the only benefit which would accrue to Scotland, for the restoration of the estates would not only check but totally destroy the spirit of emigration which at that time manifested itself in the Highlands; and how far the hypothesis of Mr. Dundas has been verified, may be at this period daily ascertained from the numerous emigrations which are taking place from even the thinly populated highlands of Scotland.

We have thus expatiated on this particular

circumstance in the reign of his late majesty, as its effects were not immediately foreseen, by raising up a number of claims by English peers in regard to the estates forfeited by their ancestors on a similar occasion, and especially of lord Newburgh to the Derwentwater estate, which, although it had been appropriated since its forfeiture to the use of Greenwich hospital, yet justice demanded that it should be restored to the descendants of the family in the same manner as the Scotch estates were to their heirs; but unfortunately the parliamentary advocate of the English was Mr. Fox, a person particularly obnoxious to his majesty, and the parliamentary advocate of the Scots was Mr. Dundas. The latter astounded the house of commons with the advantages which were to accrue to the nation from the restoration of the Scotch estates; and, as his majesty was not only well-inclined towards the measure, but had in all instances the good of the nation at heart, the bill received the royal assent, and at the same time laid the foundation for that jealousy* which exhibited itself in a short time, respecting every measure which had any reference to the interests of Scotland.

Parliament was prorogued on the 20th of August, on which occasion the speaker addressed his majesty in a short speech, in which he enumerated the various subjects his majesty's faithful commons had taken into their consideration; and added, "your faithful commons in compliance with your majesty's request, by very heavy taxes* on your majesty's subjects,

* These taxes would perhaps not have been so heavy had every person acted in the manner of the smuggler who wrote the following letter:

Right Honourable Sir,

The distresses of my country have awakened in my breast a monitor, which informs me, that in my younger days, when I followed the seas, and carried adventures as most seamen do, and by which the revenue was injured, I acted wrong; in consequence of which conviction, I have, right honourable Sir, inclosed three hundred pounds in bank bills, which is a vast sum out of the small fortune I am possessed of, which I humbly request may be applied to the service of my country, humbly hoping, for the quiet of my conscience, that I may be included in the act of indemnity, which is about to pass; and, I take

London, August 26, 1794.

have made provision for the support of the public credit, and for making up the deficiencies in the civil list, not doubting but your majesty's wisdom and justice will properly dispose of what the confidence of your people has so liberally granted."

To which his majesty replied :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot close this session of parliament without returning you my warmest thanks for the eminent proofs you have given of your zealous and diligent attention to the public service.

The happiest effects may be expected from the provisions which you have made for the better government of India, and from the institution of a tribunal so peculiarly adapted to the trial of offences committed in that distant country.

I observe with great satisfaction, the laws which you have passed for the preservation and improvement of the revenue. No exertions shall be wanting on my part to give them vigour and effect.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The zeal and liberality with which you have provided for the exigencies of the public service, and the assistance which you have given me to prevent a growing arrear in the expenses of my civil list, demand my particular thanks.

I feel in common with you for the unavoidable burthens of my people.

The importance of effectually supporting our national credit, after a long and exhausting war, can alone reconcile me to so painful a necessity. I trust the same consideration will enable my faithful subjects to meet it, as they have uniformly done, with fortitude and patience.

His majesty was at this time very actively employed in superintending his improvements at Windsor, and in the prosecution of his agricultural pursuits ; in regard to the former, he very often employed the troops which were quartered in the vicinity, and on the arrival of the twelfth regiment of foot from Gibraltar, after having served in that fortress almost fifteen years, in particular during the whole course of the blockade and siege, it had the honour of being ordered to do duty at Windsor ; and during the summer his majesty employed a detachment in making rides in the forest and the parts adjacent. Previous to the regiment being relieved, a small stone pillar was erected, by permission of his majesty, on the spot from whence the rides branch off, with the following inscription on it :

These Rides were begun, and above forty miles completed, in the year 1784, by a detachment of his majesty's twelfth regiment of foot, quartered at Windsor, upon its return from Gibraltar.

Bello dimicantes
Pace laborantes
Otium fugimus.

His majesty was always particularly anxious for the receipt of intelligence from the bishop of Osnaburgh, who was at this time at the court of Dresden. A sort of diary was transmitted to his majesty of the motions of the young prince, from which we extract the proceedings of one week, from which it will appear

further the liberty of assuring you, that I have never acted with violence against the laws of my country, nor have been a common smuggler ; that there is no process out against me, nor can any person whatever take out one against me. Humbly hoping that what I have done and said may meet with your's and my country's approbation, and entitle me to be particularly mentioned in the act, I take the liberty of adding, that I am, with the utmost respect for your many virtues,

Right honourable Sir,

Your most humble, most devoted, and obedient servant,

T. T.

I humbly desire, that on receiving the aforementioned bills, it may be acknowledged in the Gazette, and the London Chronicle.

To the Right Honourable William Pitt, &c. &c. &c.

that his royal highness had not much time to study the military tactics of the people with whom he resided, and which was one of the chief designs of his continental travels.

Dresden, September 29, 1784.

On Wednesday the 22d of September, at eight o'clock in the evening, arrived here his royal highness the bishop of Osnaburg, under the title of comte de Hoya. On Thursday the 23d in the morning, he viewed the picture gallery, and the Voute Verte, or treasury. After dinner he stood godfather to the infant son of Mr. Eden, his Britannic majesty's minister, whence he went to court, and returned at eight o'clock to supper at Mr. Eden's. On Friday the 24th, he attended the parade, viewed the porcelain manufactory and the armory, and dined at court. After dinner he visited the ministers of state, at six o'clock was present at the drawing-room, and supped with M. d'Alvensteben, the Prussian minister. At six o'clock in the morning of Saturday the 25th, he met the elector and the two princes Anthony and Maximilian in the great garden, where they breakfasted; during which they were entertained with a hunting concerto; after which they amused themselves with shooting pheasants, of which they killed one hundred and eleven. The comte de Hoya then viewed the antique statues, &c., in the great garden, returned to town, and dined at court. After dinner he was present on horseback while the life-guards performed their exercise, went at night to the Italian opera of *Elisa*, and supped with M. Stutterheim, minister of state. At six o'clock of the morning of Sunday the 26th, he went on horseback to Kelseldorf, to view the field of battle there, returned to the castle before the time of divine service, dined at court, and was afterwards present at a ball and supper. On Monday the 27th he went, accompanied by the two princes of Waldeck, to Maxen, Setliz, Konigstein, and Pillniz, dined with Mr. Eden, and supped with the comte de Loss, minister of state. On Tuesday the 28th, at six o'clock in the morning, he set out on a hunting party to Moritzbourg, killed after breakfast four wild boars with his own hand, and drank during the subsequent repast, some bumpers to the success of the chase; returned to town, saw the opera *Il Capriccio Coretto*, took leave of the elector, &c., and on Wednesday the 29th left Dresden.

Some afflicting accounts shortly afterwards reached his majesty of some heavy losses which his royal highness had experienced in gaming, particularly to the margrave of Anspach, to whom he lost in one night the whole of his annual allowance. His majesty, it is well known, had always a strong dislike to gaming; he discountenanced it in every department of his household, nor would he retain a person in his service who was addicted to that ruinous vice. It, therefore, grieved him much to hear of the gaming losses of his son, and a very sharp remonstrance was despatched by his majesty; but his royal highness could not have been sent to a better school to finish him in all the arts of gaming, than to the courts of Germany. The gambler is there seen from the highest station to the lowest; and the whole study appears to be, to attain such a perfection in the art, that should chance be unpropitious, knavery may be ready at hand to complete the ruin of the inconsiderate dupe. The individual who comes from a German court uncontaminated with the itch of gambling, must possess no little share of resolution, and a strength of principle which is seldom the lot of the youthful character.

But we will return to the domestic scenes at Windsor, and during the severity of the winter of 1784-5, we find his majesty in the exercise of that humanity which was so striking a feature in his character.

One day his majesty, regardless of the weather, was taking a solitary walk on foot, when he was met by two boys, the eldest not eight years of age, who, although ignorant that it was the king, fell upon their knees before him, and wringing their little hands, prayed for relief. "The smallest relief," they cried, "for we are hungry, very hungry, and have nothing to eat." More they would have said, but a torrent of tears, which gushed down their in-

nocent cheeks, checked their utterance. The father of his people raised the weeping supplicants, and encouraged them to proceed with their story. They did so, and related that their mother had been dead three days, and still lay unburied; that their father, whom they were afraid of losing, was stretched by her side upon a bed of straw, in a sick and hopeless condition; and that they had neither money, food, nor firing at home. This artless tale was more than sufficient to excite sympathy in the royal bosom. His majesty, therefore, ordered the boys to proceed homeward, and followed them until they reached a wretched hovel. There he found the mother dead, apparently through the want of common necessities, the father ready to perish also, but still encircling with his feeble arm the deceased partner of his woes, as if unwilling to survive her. The sensibility of the monarch betrayed itself in the tears which started from his eyes; and leaving all the cash he had with him, he hastened back to Windsor, related to the queen what he had witnessed; sent an immediate supply of provisions, coals, and every thing necessary for the comfort of the helpless family. Revived by the bounty of his sovereign, the old man soon recovered; and the king, to finish the good work which he had so gloriously begun, educated and provided for the children.

Amongst his majesty's improvements at Windsor, he gave orders for St. George's-hall, to be newly decorated, and it was determined that the grand window should be enriched with the armorial bearings of the existing knights of the garter on painted glass:—and that towards defraying this expense, each knight companion should be called upon for the sum of fifty pounds. This, it was expected, would meet with general compliance; it happened, however, otherwise; when the proposal was imparted to

the duke of Richmond, his grace, addressing Mr. Lockman, by whom the communication was made, said “It was a matter that required serious consideration—fifty pounds was a great sum for a little painted glass—very brittle security—he would turn the question in his mind.” His grace being waited upon repeatedly, at length agreed to pay fifty pounds into the hands of Messrs. Drummond, from whence it was not to be drawn till the window was completed, and his approbation given to the work:—a condition was offered to Drummond, respecting the probable growing interest of the fifty pounds, on which that spirited banker desired that he might not be troubled on so paltry a business.

The petty agitations at length reached the ear of the sovereign, who thus terminated the dispute:—“Let the vacancy, on which so much has been said, be filled with the arms of the late marquis of Rockingham!”

The directions of his majesty were instantly complied with, and from this singularity, futurity will be scarcely enabled to account why the arms of a knight of the garter, who held an high office in the state, at the time the window was executed, should be omitted; and those of a knight, who died more than three years prior to the event, occupy the space;—which space, it is further to be observed, according to the order in which the knights rank, precisely belonged to the duke of Richmond.

The year 1786 was opened, as usual, at St. James's, by a splendid court, and with the performance of the customary ode, written by the poet laureat; and having pronounced that William Whitehead, esq., was at that time decorated with the Parnassian wreath, it is a sufficient apology for not inserting the crude productions of his laureat brain. In his poem he prophecied the return of America to its allegiance to this country, and how that prophecy has

been fulfilled, the present age can testify. It was presenting to his majesty the shadow of that substance, which he had lost for ever.

Her majesty's birth-day was celebrated on the 18th January with every possible degree of splendour, and a circumstance occurred at the ball in the evening, which proved a source of great amusement, not only to his majesty, but to the whole company. This was the appearance of the celebrated George Hanger, who, by way of contrast, selected the beautiful Miss Gunning as his partner. Being a major in the Hessian service, he wore his uniform at the ball, which was a short blue coat with broad gold frogs, with a belt equally broad across his shoulders, from which his sword depended. This dress being a little particular, when compared to the full trimmed suits of velvet and satin about him, though, as professional, strictly conformable to the etiquette of the court, attracted the notice of his majesty and his attendants, and the buz—Who is he? whence comes he? &c. &c., was heard in all parts of the room. Thus the major became the focus of attraction, but when on the first crossing of his lovely partner in the minuet, he put on his hat, which, being of the largest Kevenhuller kind, ornamented with two large black and white feathers, cut a most preposterous figure; the gravity of his majesty could not be restrained, the grave faces of his ministers relaxed into a smile, and the prince of Wales was actually thrown into a convulsive fit of laughter. There was such an irresistible provocation to risibility in the *tout ensemble* of his appearance and style of movement, that his fair partner was reluctantly obliged to lose sight of good manners, and could scarcely finish the minuet; but Hanger himself joined in the laugh, which was raised at his expense, and thereby extricated his partner from her embarrassment. This is, perhaps

the first time that the *pas grave* of a minuet has been considered as a mighty good jest, but there are moments when even the most serious circumstances serve only to produce a comic effect.

His majesty enjoyed the grotesque appearance of the major so much, that he resolved to stop to see him perform in a country dance, and a smile sat upon his countenance during the whole of the time.

The following letter was sent to the major, and it was known to have been written by a most distinguished individual, who so particularly enjoyed the major's grotesque appearance :

St. James's-street, Sunday morning.

The company who attended the ball on Tuesday last, at St. James's, present their compliments to major Hanger, and return him unfeigned thanks for the variety with which he enlivened the insipidity of that evening's entertainment. The *gentlemen* want words to describe their admiration of the truly grotesque and humourous figure which he exhibited; and the *ladies* beg leave to express their grateful acknowledgements for the lively, and animated emotions that his stately, erect, and perpendicular form, could not fail to excite in their delicate, susceptible bosoms. His gesticulations and martial deportment were truly admirable, and have raised an impression that will not soon be effaced at St. James's.

It is well known that major Hanger, now lord Coleraine, was, at one time, the particular companion of his present majesty, when prince of Wales, and many of the youthful improprieties which he committed, were ascribed by the king, to the company which he kept: on a particular occasion, in which the major was raising recruits, the king hearing that the prince was taken from place to place by him and others in high life, collecting mobs and throwing money to them in large quantities for the sake of creating the fun of seeing a scramble, and other worse purposes, he with much feeling exclaimed

“ D—n Sherry, and I must hang, hang Hanger, for they will break my heart, and ruin the hopes of my country.”

On the 26th of January, his majesty went to the house of peers in state, and, being seated on the throne, he delivered the following speech :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

After the laborious attendance of the last sessions of parliament, it has given me peculiar pleasure, that the situation of public affairs has admitted of so long a recess.

Among the objects which now require consideration, I must particularly recommend to your earnest attention the adjustment of such points in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, as are not yet finally arranged. *The system which will unite both kingdoms the most closely on principles of reciprocal advantage, will, I am persuaded, best ensure the general prosperity of my dominions.*

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that notwithstanding any appearance of differences on the continent, I continue uniformly to receive, from all foreign powers, the strongest assurances of their good disposition towards this country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates of the ensuing year to be laid before you. I confide in your liberality and zeal to grant the necessary supplies, with a just regard as well to the economy requisite in every department, as to the maintenance of the national credit, and the real exigencies of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The success which has attended the measures taken in the last session towards the suppression of smuggling, and for the improvement of the revenue, will encourage you to apply yourselves, with continual assiduity, to those important objects. You will, I trust, also take into early consideration, the matters suggested in the reports of the commissioners of public accounts, and such further regulations as may appear to be necessary in the different offices of the kingdom.

I have the fullest reliance on the continuance of your faithful and diligent exertions in every part of your public

duty. You may at all times depend on my hearty concurrence in every measure which can tend to alleviate our national burthens, to secure the true principles of the constitution, and to promote the general welfare of my people.

We have inserted this speech of his majesty, as the first hint is given in it of the intended union of Ireland with England, which was always a favourite measure of Mr. Pitt's, and by him it was ultimately carried into effect.

His majesty, from *very particular reasons*, was extremely anxious that the prince of Wales should enter into a matrimonial alliance, and with this view, he directed his attention to the marriageable princesses of the foreign protestant courts, and an alliance was seriously meditated between the prince of Wales and the princess royal of Denmark ; and at the same time that the marriage should be solemnized between the prince royal of Denmark, and the princess Augusta Sophia, his majesty's second daughter, both of whom were born in 1768. The latter marriage was, however, not to take place until the year 1787, on account of the age of the respective parties. It would have been perhaps fortunate for the country, had the first of the alliances been carried into effect, but it was frustrated by a circumstance which will be detailed in its proper place.

His majesty in 1785, continued his improvements at Richmond, and wishing to shut up the footway from Richmond to Kew, generally called Kew-lane, which had hitherto separated the royal gardens through the greater part of their length, he obtained the consent of the parish for that purpose, and an act of parliament having passed, he as lord of the manor, gave to the parish in lieu certain parts of Pest-house and Hill commons for the erection of a work-house, and for enclosing a new burial-ground. This is a transaction which suffi-

ciently shews the limits of the royal powers, and the liberties of the subject in this happy country.

The amusements and avocations of his majesty at this period were generally of the most rational kind, and the following extracts from Mrs. Delany's letters, afford some pleasing specimens of the domestic life of his majesty during the year 1785 :

" Since I last wrote to you, I have had an intercourse with his majesty again by way of letter, on his returning the books of Mr. Handel's music, which my nephew, J. Dewes, had lent him. The king's letter was very gracious and condescending ; much pleased with some music that was new to him among the books, and sent his acknowledgments to my nephew in the most obliging manner ; adding, that he would not ask me to come and hear it performed at the Queen's-house till the spring was so far advanced, that it might be safe for me to venture. On Thursday, the 9th of May, I received a note from lady Weymouth, to tell me the queen invited me to her majesty's house ; to come at seven o'clock with the duchess dowager of Portland, to hear Mrs. Siddons read "The Provoked Husband." You may believe I obeyed the royal summons, and was much entertained. It was very desirable to me, as I had no other opportunity of hearing or seeing Mrs. Siddons ; and she fully answered my expectations : her person and manner perfectly agreeable. We were received in the great drawing-room by the king and queen, their five daughters, and prince Edward. Besides the royal family, there were only the duchess dowager of Portland, her daughter lady Weymouth, and her beautiful grand-daughter lady Aylesford ; lord and lady Harcourt, lady Charlotte Finch, duke of Montague, and the gentlemen attendant on the king. There were

two rows of chairs for the company, the length of the room.

" Their majesties sat in the middle of the first row, with the princesses on each hand, which filled it. The rest of the ladies were seated in the row behind them, and as there was a space between that and the wall, the lords and gentlemen that were admitted stood there. Mrs. Siddons read standing, and had a desk with candles before her : she behaved with great propriety, and read two acts of the Provoked Husband ; which was abridged, by leaving out Sir Francis and Lady Wronghead's parts, &c. ; but she introduced John Moody's account of the journey, and read it admirably. The part of lord and lady Townly's reconciliation she worked up finely, and made it very affecting. She also read queen Katharine's last speech in King Henry VIII. She was allowed three pauses, to go into the next room and refresh herself, for half an hour each time. After she was dismissed, their majesties detained the company some time, to talk over what had passed, which was not the least agreeable part of the entertainment."

In another letter, dated September 20, 1785, we find the following interesting particulars of the royal family :

" On Saturday, the 3d of this month, one of the queen's messengers came and brought me the following letter from her majesty, written with her own hand :

My dear Mrs. Delany will be glad to hear that I am charged by the king to summon her to her new abode at Windsor for Tuesday next, where she will find all the most essential parts of the house ready, excepting some little trifles, which it will be better for Mrs. Delany to direct herself in person, or by her little deputy, Miss Port. I need not, I hope, add, that I shall be extremely glad and happy to see so amiable an inhabitant in this our sweet retreat ; and wish, very sincerely, that my dear Mrs. Delany may enjoy every blessing amongst us that

her merits deserve. That we may long enjoy her amiable company, amen! These are the true sentiments of

My dear Mrs. Delany's

very affectionate queen,

CHARLOTTE.

Windsor, September 3, 1785.

P. S. I must also beg that Mrs. Delany will choose her own time of coming, as will best suit her own convenience.

MY ANSWER.

It is impossible to express how I am overwhelmed with your Majesty's excess of goodness to me. I shall, with the warmest duty and most humble respect, obey a command that bestows such honour and happiness on your majesty's most dutiful and most obedient humble servant and subject,

MARY DELANY.

"I received the queen's letter at dinner, and was obliged to answer it instantly, with my own hand, without seeing a letter. I wrote. I thank God I had strength enough to obey the gracious summons on the day appointed. I arrived here about eight o'clock in the evening, and found his majesty in the house ready to receive me. I threw myself at his feet, indeed unable to utter a word; he raised and saluted me, and said he meant not to stay longer than to desire I would order every thing that could make the house comfortable and agreeable to me, and then retired.

"Truly I found nothing wanting, as it is as pleasant and commodious as I could wish it to be, with a very pretty garden, which joins to that of the Queen's Lodge. The next morning, her majesty sent one of her ladies to know how I had rested, and how I was in health, and whether her coming would not be troublesome? You may be sure I accepted the honour, and she came about two o'clock. I was lame, and could not go down, as I ought to have done, to the door; but her majesty came up stairs, and

I received her on my knees. Our meeting was mutually affecting; she well knew the value of what I had lost, and it was some time after we were seated (for she always makes me sit down) before we could either of us speak. It is impossible for me to do justice to her great condescension and tenderness, which were almost equal to what I had lost. She repeated, in the strongest terms, her wish, and the king's, that I should be as easy and as happy as they could possibly make me; that they waved all ceremony, and desired to come to me like *friends*. The queen delivered me a paper from the king, which contained the first quarter of 300*l.* per annum, which his majesty allows me out of his privy purse. Their majesties have drank tea with me five times, and the princesses three. They generally stay two hours, or longer. In short, I have either seen or heard from them every day. I have not yet been at the Queen's Lodge, though they have expressed an impatience for me to come; but I have still so sad a drawback upon my spirits, that I must decline the honour till I am better able to enjoy it: as they have the goodness not to press me. Their visits here are paid in the most quiet private manner, like those of the most consoling and interested friends; so that I may *truly* say, they are a royal cordial, and I see very few people besides. They are very condescending in their notice of my niece, and think her a fine girl. She is delighted, as is very natural, with all the joys of the place. I have been three times at the king's private chapel at early prayers, eight o'clock, where the royal family constantly attend; and they walk home to breakfast afterwards, whilst I am conveyed in a very elegant new chair home, which the king has made me a present of for that purpose."

In the following extract, which is dated November 9, 1785, is one of the most pleasing

traits in the character of his majesty which has been yet recorded, and the melancholy reflection presents itself, that the beloved daughter with whom he was then playing on the carpet, carried her revered parents affections with her to her riper years, and that when she left this sublunary sphere, to grace another, she left also that beloved parent, the sincerest of her earthly mourners, soon, alas! to be enveloped in the darkness of mental alienation.

"I have been several evenings at the queen's lodge, with no other company but their own most lovely family. They sit round a large table, on which are books, work, pencils, and paper. The queen has the goodness to make me sit down next to her; and delights me with her conversation, which is informing, elegant, and pleasing, beyond description, whilst the younger part of the family are drawing and working, &c. &c., the beautiful babe, princess Amelia, bearing her part in the entertainment; sometimes in one of her sisters' laps; sometimes playing with the king on the carpet; which, altogether, exhibits such a delightful scene, as would require an Addison's pen, or a Vandyke's pencil, to do justice to. In the next room is the band of music, who play from eight o'clock till ten. The king generally directs them what pieces of music to play, chiefly Handel's. Here I must stop, and return to my own house. Mr. Dewes, from Wellsbourn, came here on the 25th of October: on the 28th their majesties, five princesses, and the youngest prince, came at seven o'clock in the evening to drink tea with me. All the princesses and prince had a commerce table. Miss Emily Clayton, daughter to lady Louisa Clayton, and Miss Port, did the honours of it. It gave me a pleasing opportunity of introducing Mr. Dewes to their majesties: the king took gracious notice of him; and having heard that his youngest

brother, Mr. John Dewes, wished to take the name of Granville, said to Mr. Dewes, that he desired he might, from that time, be called by that name, and gave orders that his sign manual should be prepared for that purpose, which has accordingly been done."

The familiar style in which his majesty mixed with his subjects in their amusements in general may be exemplified by the conduct of the royal party at Egham races in 1785; when the king, queen and five of the princesses, arrived on the course, without guards or ceremony, and were received by the duke of Queensbury, who gave them some account of the horses that were to run. The lord mayor and lady mayoress had some conversation with their majesties, after which the king appeared on the ground on horseback, and conversed with the clerk of the course at different intervals, with the utmost condescension. During this time, the queen, princess royal, and princess Elizabeth, were in an open landau, and the three younger princesses in a coach.

Whilst in the field, their majesties regaled themselves with cold beef, ham and veal, and seemed to enjoy their lunch in the plain field manner; expressing themselves, on leaving the course, much pleased with the day's sport.

In fact, mixing thus familiarly with their subjects, led often to the most entertaining and ludicrous occurrences, particularly on one occasion, shortly after the races, when returning from London to Windsor in their post-chaise, on their being set down, a number of children surrounded the carriage to see the king and queen; amongst whom was a fine sturdy boy, who had that morning put on short clothes for the first time. His majesty, ever attentive even to the most humble, instantly fixed his eye on the cheerful countenance of the child, and asked whose boy he was? to which he replied, "My

father is the king's beef-eater." "Then," said the king, "down upon your knee, and you shall have the honour to kiss the queen's hand." To which the boy boldly replied, "No, but I won't though, because I shall dirt my new breeches."

This extempore, but uncourtly repartee, had such an effect upon their majesties, that they made the child a handsome present, and repeated the story afterwards as an excellent joke.

His majesty in his general conduct always laid down a system of action from which nothing but the most urgent business could induce him to deviate. It was his invariable principle that it is system only, which can carry a man successfully through the affairs of life; and on once being asked how one of his ministers could possibly get through such a mass of business, he replied, "He acts as I do, he always finishes one thing before he begins another." It was this systematic conduct of his majesty, which instilled the same spirit throughout his household, and the following arrangement which his majesty made in August 1785, for the remainder of the year, until their removal to town for the winter season, will shew the precision with which his majesty acted, and it was never known, unless some particular state affair interposed, that he ever omitted appearing at the appointed places according to the arrangement which he had previously made, which was as follows:

At Windsor, the queen's house, Sunday, Monday, and till Tuesday evening, when the king and queen came to Kew, (since the decrease of days,) for the greater convenience of his majesty's coming to town on Wednesdays to the levee. At Kew, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and returned to Windsor on Saturday mornings. When the queen had no drawing room at St. James's on Thursdays, the

king and queen went to Windsor on Wednesday evenings, and returned to Kew the following evening. The junior branches of the royal family resided wholly at their several houses on Kew-green, and went to Windsor to visit their majesties occasionally. The princess royal and princess Augusta, had apartments for themselves and servants at Windsor castle. The prince of Wales also had a complete suit of apartments for his residence on the eastern side of the quadrangle. The princess resided occasionally in the apartments which were some time before occupied by the bishop of Osnaburg, and afterwards by prince Edward.

His majesty this year had the satisfaction of completing the queen's house at Windsor, which was settled upon her as a part of her jointure, and which was intended for her country residence in case she should survive his majesty. In this building, elegance and convenience were more attended to than in any of the modern buildings in this kingdom; and there was one singularity attending it, that many of the beds, quilts, and even carpets, were the work of her majesty, the princesses, maids of honour, and other females of the queen's own household, and were of the most exquisite taste and workmanship.

The character of frivolity has often been attached to his majesty, and particularly in his amusements, but it must be considered that it is the characteristic of great as well as of little minds, to descend to trifles, and two very singular instances of the truth of this observation occurred at this time, and one of them in direct reference to his majesty.

Lord Mulgrave once waited upon the king with some important communication from his minister, and on being ushered into the apartment in which their majesties were sitting, he found them playing at teetotum for the enormous

stake of some pins. His majesty received his lordship with his accustomed affability, and said, "You see I am at last turned a gambler, but I hope I have too much sense to risk a crown upon the throw of a dice."

When his lordship left his majesty, he returned to London, and went to pay an evening visit in Downing-street: he was instantly conducted to an antichamber, where he found the minister and lord Mahon building houses, as children do, with a pack of cards. Lord Mulgrave seemed to be much surprised, and said ironically, "I hope I don't disturb the game." Mr. Pitt, with much composure, replied, "Not at all: you see great men, as well as others, have their whims in the hours of relaxation, and I am not the first. Aristophanes, in one of his works, represents Socrates and Chærephon measuring the leap of a flea from the beard of the one to the beard of the other; and you may tell the world, that you found the chancellor of the exchequer, and a noble lord, (his relation) building houses with a pack of cards." "And I," said lord Mulgrave, "can also tell the world, that I have found a king playing at teetotum for pins."

In October, the king, queen, and royal family went to Newnham, in Oxfordshire, on a visit to lord Harcourt, purposing to return to Windsor the same evening; but the weather proving favourable, the royal pair determined to take that opportunity of paying a private visit to Oxford; and accordingly slept that night at Newnham, from whence they drove to Oxford the next morning, on the 12th of October; and arriving at Christ-church just at prayer time, they proceeded without ceremony to the cathedral, and took their seats during the service.

After prayers they visited all the colleges, and held a sort of levee in the theatre, where

the principals and students were assembled; and then proceeded to the council-chamber to receive the civic compliments. During the whole of this visit their majesties mingled most familiarly with the crowd, displaying great affability and condescension, and cheerfully affording every opportunity to the inhabitants for the gratification of their earnest wishes of seeing so many branches of the royal family. In return, the decency of the populace, and great attention of all other classes of the inhabitants, were highly pleasing, whilst the dignity and grandeur of such a display of superb structures added much to the effect of the scene.

The bells were incessantly ringing during the whole of the visit. At five o'clock, the royal party set off for Newnham; but the good people of Oxford illuminated their city at night notwithstanding, whilst a general joy and satisfaction appeared in every countenance.

That state of human affairs, which is most conducive to the general happiness of mankind, is commonly most barren of political incident. The tranquillity which pervaded Europe in general during this period, leaves little to the pen of history to record, and still less to the philanthropist to deplore. The attention of those states which had so lately been convulsed and oppressed by the barbarous rage of war, was now directed to the salutary task of repairing their injured finances or improving their dilapidated commerce. The British Parliament assembled on the 24th of January, 1786, and the first object that engaged their attention was a plan proposed by the duke of Richmond, as master-general of the ordnance, for the fortification of the dock-yards at Portsmouth and Plymouth. The outlines of this scheme originated with his majesty, although he was not aware at the time of the enormous sum which would be required to

carry the scheme into effect, for it was no less than 760,097*l*. The measure was opposed by all the eloquence of Mr. Sheridan, and the singular fate which attended the duke of Richmond's proposal is still recent in the memory of most readers, and will not easily be forgotten. On the house dividing, the numbers appeared exactly equal, being on each side one hundred and sixty-nine; and the casting vote of the speaker decided the question against the minister.

His majesty was secretly chagrined at this rejection of the plan, but he philosophically consoled himself with the idea that he had performed his duty, and the country had saved the money.

The celebration of the queen's birth-day was put off in the year 1786, from the usual day to the 9th of February, when an elegant and most numerous court attended the drawing-room.

In the evening the ball-room was highly splendid, and exhibited a display of fine women, such as no court in the universe could equal. The king and queen seemed particularly delighted; and separately addressed every lady within the circle assigned to the dancers, whilst the prelude was playing by the royal band.

So numerous was the company upon this occasion, that the ball-room was crowded before their majesties entered; and soon after lord Aylesford found it necessary to give directions that no more persons should be admitted, and that the door should be locked.

The most remarkable person at the ball was the Tripoline ambassador, attended by his page of honour and secretary; all of whom were dressed in the costume of their country, exciting great attention: whilst they, in return, appeared much delighted, and astonished at the crowd of beauties that surrounded them.

Both the king and queen were at this period very attentive to theatrical performers of merit. Early in February, Mrs. Siddons was no sooner recovered from her *accouchement*, than their majesties expressly ordered the part of Mrs. Lovemore for her first appearance, which they went to see, joining heartily in the demonstrations of welcome exhibited by the audience towards that admirable performer.

A representation having been made to his majesty of the gross abuse which was at this time practised by domestics belonging to, or by persons pretending to belong to the foreign ministers, he issued his most positive orders that the domestics of foreign ministers should be in future amenable to the laws of this country, according as the principles of justice demanded it; and that they should be no longer under the protection or sanction of their masters. It was a common custom at this period for persons under fear of an arrest, to get their names enrolled, on payment of a trifling sum, as belonging to the suite of a foreign ambassador; and this practice had risen to such a height, that nine persons out of ten who were arrested pleaded this privilege, and thus the ends of justice were defeated. The manner in which his majesty came to the knowledge of this glaring abuse, arose from a transaction with a butcher in Smithfield, to whom the steward of his majesty had sold some sheep, which had been grazed on one of his farms at Windsor. The butcher was an unprincipled fellow, and would not pay the amount of the sheep, in consequence of which legal proceedings were instituted against him, but it was discovered that he was in the suite of the French ambassador. His majesty considered this such a gross evasion of all principle of justice, that he immediately issued the order alluded to, and it was signified in form to all the foreign ambassadors.

From the habitual self-possession with which the king was blessed, arising chiefly from his conviction that he acted conscientiously, he was in general very indifferent to the shafts of ridicule or calumny. He thought with St. Evremond (*Memoirs of Augustus*), that "if what is alleged of us be true, it is our business rather to reform ourselves, than for others to hold their tongues; if false, that by shewing a concern about it, we are apt to make it suspected for truth." "The contempt of such discourses," as the same writer adds, "is the surest way to discredit them, and takes away the pleasure from those that indulge them. If you resent them more than you ought to do, it is in the power of the most contemptible enemy, or the most pitiful rascal, to disturb the repose of your life, and all your power cannot defend you from perpetual vexation."

We see in these sentiments the rule of conduct which appears to have invariably guided the conduct of George III. Perhaps no writer ever carried the licence of poetical satire to more unwarrantable, ungenerous, and unmanly lengths, than the late Dr. Walcot, who, under the assumed name of Peter Pindar, deluged the town for several years with publications, the avowed object of which was to expose the domestic affairs of the royal family to derision, as if the dwelling of the sovereign were the only one in England, the household gods of which may be insulted with impunity. On the king, however, they produced no other effect, than a smile of wonder at the perverse ingenuity of the man; and the most serious thing he was ever known to say of them was on the occasion of Peter's lampooning General Carpenter, when his majesty observed, that "for himself he cared nothing; but he was hurt to see a worthy man calumniated, because he happened to be one of his servants." As far as

they were capable of exciting a good-natured laugh, the king enjoyed that laugh as much as any man; and when they were otherwise, as was but too often the case, he observed a dignified forbearance, leaving the author to enjoy all the triumph there might be, in making a base attack on a party whom he knew to be precluded, by his dignity, from descending into the arena in his own defence.

A letter of Dr. Walcot is extant, in which he alleges, that "it was agitated in the privy-council to attack him for his writings, particularly the *Lousiad*; but that on its being discovered that the poem had its foundation in truth, all idea of prosecution was extinguished. "Are you sure of a verdict?" said a lord high in the law (Chancellor Thurlow); "if not so, we shall look like a parcel of fools!" For this statement there is we believe the same vague shadow of truth that there was for all Peter's statements; but however authentic it may be, it is generally allowed to be quite as certain, that the idea of a prosecution did not originate with his majesty, but with some of his ministers, who consulted a natural and just indignation, more than the dictates of a sound prudence.

Of the "foundation in truth" which the doctor speaks of, he has left in another letter a proof, which deserves to be as memorable at least as the satire itself. It shows how the privacy of the palace was invaded; and to what low sources the man had recourse for his materials. "I had this (the story of the *Lousiad*) from the cooks themselves, with whom I dined several times at Buckingham-house and Windsor, immediately after the *shave* took place."

The doctor, on being once reproved by a gentleman for the liberties he had taken with his sovereign, is said to have replied with as much truth as wit, "I confess there exists this difference between the king and I—the king has

been a *good subject* to me ; but I have been a *bad subject* to his majesty."

We have been led into these remarks by a circumstance which occurred at this time in the royal household, which occasioned an order from his majesty for all the domestics to have the hair of their heads shaved off; and which gave ample food for the wit of the satirist.

No occurrence of a trivial nature, perhaps, occasioned more silly conjecture and small conversation, than that which about this time caused an order to be issued by the king for shaving the heads of the cooks of the royal kitchen; which, after no little parley and negotiation, was carried into effect upon all of them, save one. This one spirited youth was a Mr. John Bear, of a very respectable family, and he accordingly received his dismissal from the service, in consequence of his stubbornness in this particular.

That a living insect was actually found on the plate set before the king is demonstrable; but whether of animal or vegetable origin is not quite so well ascertained. No doubt his majesty must have been convinced that it was of the former, when he visited with so much severity the heads of his servants; for, under the influence of the prevailing fashion at that time of day, a buckle or queue, a *souffr  * and curls, and consequently a good head of hair, were indispensable in the equipment of a beau; and every one knows that cooks of a royal kitchen assume no little gentility, when throwing aside their greasy avocation, they *adorn* themselves for walking in the Mall, or dress for the purpose of paying the more congenial visit. Some of them even cultivate polite learning, and the agreeable accomplishments—a circumstance which has been sung, as regards one of them, by a poet whom I shall have occasion to quote more in point shortly:

43—44.

Heavens! cried a yeoman, with much learning graced,
In books, as well as meats, a man of taste,
Who read with vast applause the daily news,
And kept a close acquaintance with the Muse;
Conundrum, rebus, made; acrostic, riddle;
And sung his dying sonnets to the fiddle.

The speech (still more elevated) put into the mouth of the head cook, by the same bard, is thus defended against all objectors:

O Snarler! but I'll lay thee any wager,
It is not too sublime for a Cook-major."

But although their heads undoubtedly underwent the daily tortuous application of hot tongs and pomatum, of the busy comb and the farina of wheat, although

Hours in the barber's hands, forsooth, they sit
Reading the newspapers and books of wit;
Just like our men of quality, forsooth,
Each full-aged gentleman and dapper youth;
Newmarket now, and now the *nation*, studying
In clouds of flour sufficient for a pudding,

Yet a good argument presented itself in their remonstrance against the shaving (as it was called) which deserves notice. In that instrument they asserted, "that they were no more likely to breed vermin in their heads than any other attendant about the court;" which would be good reasoning, and intelligible even at this day, when such extravagancies are no longer practised, if they had subjoined the words, "who use the same means for obtaining a *breed*." But the words as they stood in the remonstrance (call it what we may) contained a direct attack upon the other gentlemen who served nearer the royal person, and with some degree of justice, for we can positively state, that at this period both Mr. Ramus and Mr. Tucker, to say no more, wore as much hair and powder as any cook in the kitchen; even Mr. Secker, who controlled this department, was not without the graceful ornament that decked the heads of all—and they kept theirs. This fact, which

stared them in the face, gave rise to all the warmth displayed by the sufferers, during the interval between the issuing of the humiliating mandate, and its inexorable execution. Every means their united counsels could devise, were employed to avert the king's anger, and to avoid the disgrace of the shave, without effect; of which the paper addressed to his majesty personally, and which I have termed a remonstrance, for boldness of language, and the assumptions of importance it abounded in, was scarcely ever equalled by any servant to any master in common life. It beggared all the domestic squabbles which disgraced the families of the little princes of Germany and Italy, during the middle ages, when *the appointments* struggle for dignity; a good sample of which is furnished in the life of Petrarch.

No other than his majesty's known goodness of disposition, and fatherly regard for the happiness of those about him, could have emboldened them to send him such a paper; and, as regards him, it was no alleviation of its contents to say afterwards, that "they regretted it had ever been sent up;" it ought never to have been written. But their only apology lies in the importance of the decision to which their representations might ultimately bring his majesty; for no one can form, at this distance of time, an adequate idea of the real affliction which must then have attended the losing a fine flowing head of hair. The master cook, however, Mr. Dixon, who possessed very little remains of his youthful tresses, was not a whit less strenuous than the youngest beau of the kitchen. True, it was entitled a petition, but filled so full of arguments, not to call them reproaches, that there was visible no expression of humility beyond the first line.

Their imprudence in this particular is the more to be wondered at, when they must have

recollected the scurvy manner in which the pretensions of their betters were deservedly repulsed not many years before this. The facts are these.

Upon occasion of the Prince of Wales paying a visit to his father at Windsor, his valet received orders from his royal highness to dine at the page's table, whereupon these gentlemen found their dignity so much compromised that they petitioned both the king and the prince to have the grievance removed: "they could not think of dining with a hair-dresser," they said. Whether the prince stickled much for the comforts of his servant, or treated the matter with ridicule, is worthy of doubt: "Let them dine where they like," said the king, and the intruder kept his seat, to the great mortification of all the pages, until the termination of the visit. But, then, the honoured valet ought not to have repeated the oft-told story about his royal highness having told the king, that "unless his servant could be treated according to the situation he held, he would instantly order his coach." I can readily believe the valet might have heard this asserted, from very good authority; but his unfortunate vanity alone induced him to take it literally; whereas we happen to know too much of the manner in which young gentlemen in high life were at that age in the habit of playing the hoax upon the emptiness of their servants, to believe that any such a threat was held out by the son towards his father. The presumption is, that had such words taken place, the prince would never have repeated them afterwards.

These, however, were not the only vexatious applications made to his majesty by his servants, sometimes concerning their own private broils, at others as affecting the economy of the household, and not uncommonly regarding the morality of others. Of the second species

were the representations which one made to him of the "wilful dilapidations which took place upon the linen." "What am I do in this case, please your majesty?" asked the complainant. "Do," said the king, after a short pause, "do! do as the rest do."

Such impertinent encroachments upon his domestic quiet were calculated entirely upon his good disposition, his forbearance, and, if I may use the term, kind heartedness. This intrusiveness of his servants, their boldness, was successfully ridiculed, upon the occasion of the shaving of the cooks; I therefore insert the following lines without ceremony, not deeming an apology an appropriate mode of introducing them, nor for adding, as I shall do, a similar extract from the *travestie* of their petition, by the same facetious author.

"Be shaved!" an understrapper turnbroche cried,
In all the foaming energy of pride:
"Zounds let us take his majesty in hand;
The king shall find he lives at *our* command.
Yes; let him know, with all his wondrous state,
His teeth and stomach on our wills shall wait:
We rule the platters, we command the spit,
And George shall have his mess when we think fit!"

Another more moderate conjecture was industriously propagated by some of those tatters that always hung about the palace and castle, that a *hair* only was the offensive material which caused so much disgust; but these persons were divided concerning the *accident* by which it got upon the plate; some asserting that "it was not more likely to have come from the kitchen than from the *petty curie*, or to have dropped from *somewhere* while either the carving of the joint (that important duty) was going on, or in conveying thence the *cover* before his majesty." The same persons pretended to account for the unrelenting manner in which the royal mandate for the *shave* was carried into execu-

tion, by attributing it to the king's *inflexible* attachment to his royal word. The cooks called it by another name, for there was a good deal of ferment. That they talked of it out of doors, and loudly deplored the grievous infliction they were destined to sustain, is probable, because it is natural, and I have reason for believing was the case.

Ridiculous stories, which bear the semblance of truth, lose nothing in carrying; and this happened on the present occasion: a very good sized quarto volume appeared upon the subject in which fiction took the place of fact, and poetical invention was displayed in broad caricature. This was entitled *The Lousiad*, in five cantos, which appeared several years apart, by Dr. John Wolcot, who in his *satirical* writings assumed the name, and abrupt style of the Theban bard, calling himself Peter Pindar, *Esquire*. He it was who, in the second canto, ridiculed the inflated pretensions of the cooks, by burlesquing their petition (so called) which somehow or other got abroad; and was laughed at in the public prints of the day.

THE PETITION OF THE COOKS.

Your majesty's firm *friends* and faithful cooks,
Who in your palace merry live as grigs,
Have heard, with heavy hearts and downcast looks,
That we must all be shaved, and put on wigs:
You, sire, who with *such honour* wear your crown,
Should never bring on *ours* disgraces down.

Dread sir, we really deem our heads our own,
With every sprig of hair that on them springs;
In France, where men, like spaniels, lick the throne,
And count it glory to be *cuff'd* by kings,
Their locks belong unto the *grand monarque*,
Who swallows privileges like a shark.

Be pleased to pardon what we now advance:
We dare your sacred majesty assure
That there's a *difference* between us and France;
And long, we hope, that *difference* will endure.

We know King Louis would, with power so dread,
Not only cut the *hair* off, but the *head*.

Oh! tell us, sir, in loyalty so true,
What dire designing ragamuffins said,
That we, your cooks, are such a nasty crew,
Great sir, as to have crawlers in the head?
My liege, you cannot find through all our house,
Not if you'd give a guinea for't, a louse.

What creature 'twas you found upon your plate
We know not;—if a louse, it was not ours:
To shave each cook's poor unoffending pate,
Betrays too much of arbitrary powers:
The act humanity and justice shocks;
Let him who owns the crawler, lose his locks.

But grant, upon your plate this louse so dread;
How can you say, sir, it belongs to us?
Maggots are found in many a princely head;
And if a maggot, why not then a *louse*?
Nay, grant the fact; with horror should you shrink?
It could not eat your *majesty*, we think.

Then follow two stanzas more, made out of the same figure as in the preceding extract, in which the idea of compelling the king to relinquish his intention of shaving their heads is pushed further, with fresh symptoms of rudeness. Doctor Wolcot's forceful energetic style, his lively images, and the ridiculous story he undertook to poeticise, induced some to think (especially *courtiers*) that he was an enemy to royalty, and of the king personally. This was a mistaken notion. I knew him well in the country. His taste for painting led him to attack the exhibition and the royal academy; and as the king was the institutor and patron of both, the doctor showed that no taste had been evinced in the selection or appointments. For the first four years, he scarcely mentioned the king distinctly; but when at length he touched upon him, party, or the proneness to scandal, or the spreading of new republican notions, obtained for his works a great and rapid sale; and although, to please his purchasers, the

doctor speaks slightly of the monarch's pursuits, his amusements, or his capacity—he never once speaks degradingly of him, in my view of the thing. Very few monarchs are esteemed by those of their subjects who require the most control; and if these spend their pent-up anger in idle vapouring about imaginary ills, at least it prevents their becoming conspirators.

One of Dr. Wolcot's cousins asked of him "Why he wrote so slightly of the king," advising him to choose another subject.

"That is impossible," replied Wolcot; "the king is the very best subject I have; nor has he a better subject in his dominions than I am."

They shook hands cordially: "John, I forgive thee," said his relation, who was Mr. Edward Luccraft, apothecary of Exeter, with whom he served the latter years of his apprenticeship.

This notice of a man who was for years *pitted* against his majesty, according to the foolish notions of a certain set, (and whose writings would have undergone inquiry in a court of law, but for the steady penetration of the lord chancellor, Thurlow,) seemed proper to a due understanding of the subject I intended to illustrate, as well as to account for his publishing so long a poem upon a trivial subject, which it would not be too much to say he has immortalized. Wolcot, if not a Whig from early habits, threw himself into the arms of that party; this, however, did not render him an enemy of the king's, nor a traitor to the state, as some would have had us suppose. On the contrary, he wrote no more in the same strain after the king's first illness.

Regarding the two diverse *opinions*, as to the offensive *thing* upon the king's plate, which caused the shaving of the cooks, Doctor Wolcot maintained in *prose*, as well as in *verse*, the *first* abovementioned was the only true one, in which I have reason to believe him both correct

and sincere. And I say this, although I know he has allowed to the lovers of more argument, and to avoid the never-ending disputes about trifles, to which such persons are most prone, that it might have been a *hair*.

On this point, I ventured one day to contradict him. We were looking out of window at some beggars, and remarking upon their destitute condition, that they must be afflicted with vermin.

"*Mine* was the most prolific louse," said he, alluding to the *Lousiad*, playfully.

Hereupon, I calculated from the additional speed the animal would be impelled to, from the warmth of the plate, that it would have travelled off it, from the kitchen to the *presence*, attempting thus to exonerate the cooks; "After all," said I, doubtingly, "I should not be surprised, though those who say it was a *hair* are in the right story."

"Tut! it was a *louse*, I say: let them assert what they like, they can make nothing else of it; and a very good *fat* one, too," added he, still alluding to the *sale* of his poem, the third canto whereof was just before published, and which was printed in the manner the printers term *fat*.

He had previously said, that "he had it from their own mouths (the cooks'), both in London and Windsor," which would appear at first sight, a very mean mode for an M. D. to adopt—the picking up of scandal from servants respecting their masters, being itself a most shabby proceeding—if it were known that persons employed about a *court* assume to have (and do possess) more of the attributes of *gentlemen*, with whom, or the better sort of tradesmen they mix, particularly at Windsor. We have ourselves dined there, twenty-three years ago, in company of one or more of them; for I remember Mr. Robinson, the king's gardener,

among the rest; he who unhappily, because the king denounced him "a scoundrel," on account of some alleged immorality, ran to certain destruction, (similar to poor general Cunningham) alarmed at their master's indignation; and he was found, after many days absence, dead in his garden-house.

That the doctor may have heard the cooks speak of their disgrace, and the *cause* of it, in London, appears to us morally provable; inasmuch as he was in the habit of dining, occasionally, at a coffee-house in St. James's-street, formerly kept by an old servant of the late queen, to which, probably, the cooks resorted; but that he was unknown to them is equally clear to us, so that they or their memories, ought not to be branded with the offence of having wittingly contributed to raise *the laugh* against their master and sovereign. So late as July, 1795, I came to London, and he having invited me to dine with him at his lodgings in Tavistock-row; I was nearly being disappointed, in consequence of his landlady, "Mother M'Intosh," as he called her, having died the night before. We, however, found a good *succedaneum* in the *treatment* at the "Queen's Larder," the house I alluded to; where he most likely was in the habit of meeting, and dining with those gentlemen-cooks, several years before, and from whom he no doubt picked up a few materials for his poem. As he appeared to me, upon that as well as a subsequent occasion, to be upon familiar terms with the master of the house, I took the liberty, usual with youths *just come to town*, to make inquiries after him *by name*, at the same place. But as no one there knew Dr. Wolcot, by name, though they recognised him for an old customer, by the description of his person, and some circumstances attending our dinners, I infer that he appeared equally incognito to

the cooks themselves, ten years before, when the momentous event took place which deprived them of their ringlets, top-knots, and tails.

Several very injurious reports were in circulation at this time against his majesty's fair fame, in respect to some diamonds of immense value, which were presented to him by Mr. Hastings; that is, he was appointed to be the presenter, but he was not the donor, as was at that time alleged, the diamonds having been sent as a present by the Nizam of the Decan, directed to Mr. Hastings at Calcutta, expressly for the king of England. Mr. Hastings, however, having sailed for England previously to their arrival at that city, they were entrusted to the care of a military officer, returning home. From him they passed through several hands, in consequence of an extraordinary robbery of his trunks in Bengal, and came at last into the possession of Mr. Blair, brother-in-law to Mr. Hastings, through whom they were transmitted to lord Sidney, agreeably to the Nizam's original intention.

This circumstance gave rise to a very bold caricature, which was one day shown to his majesty, in which Warren Hastings was represented wheeling the king and the lord chancellor in a wheelbarrow for sale, and crying "What a man buys, he may sell." The inference intended was, that his majesty and lord Thurlow had used improper influence in favour of Hastings. The king smiled at the caricature, and observed, "Well, this is something new; I have been in all sorts of carriages, but was never put into a wheelbarrow before."

The mode of life which the prince of Wales pursued, had been long the source of the most poignant grief to his majesty, and the change which at this time took place in the conduct

of his royal highness, will, probably, be handed down to posterity, as one of the most extraordinary events that is to be met with in the annals of royalty. We shall merely fulfil the duty of faithful biography, by briefly stating the circumstances.

The prince, finding his affairs embarrassed by the smallness of his income, applied to his majesty for assistance; assuring his majesty, that, if any part of his conduct was thought improper, he would, upon its being made known to him, alter the same, and conform to his majesty's wishes in every thing that was becoming a gentleman. The king ordered a state of the prince's affairs to be laid before him. A state of the prince's debts was made out, amounting in the whole to about 230,000*l.*, to which was added 24,000*l.* for completing Carlton-house, making in the whole 250,000*l.*; which account was laid before his majesty. On the 4th July, in the evening, lord Southampton received his majesty's answer, which was a direct and positive refusal. His royal highness, upon being informed of this answer, took his resolution to retire to a private station.

In consequence of this determination in his highness, letters were on the 7th written to the gentlemen of his household, stating, that their services would for the present be dispensed with.

The conduct of lord Southampton, during the whole of the negotiation, was exceedingly honourable and correct. The messages which passed between his majesty and the prince, were all in writing, and the noble lord conducted the business in the most impartial manner.

The four gentlemen whom his highness chose to retain in his household, and to whom the management of the funds to be set apart for

the payment of his debts was intrusted, were colonel Hotham, colonel Hulse, colonel Lake, and Henry Lyre, esq.

Tattersall received orders to go to Newmarket, and take inventories of the horses which made up his highness's stud, together with his carriages, &c. and to bring the whole to the hammer with all convenient speed; which was accordingly done on the 24th and 25th July, when the whole stud, consisting of brood-mares, horses in training, yearling-colts, yearling-fillies, hunters, hacks, and coach-horses, sold for the sum of 7,225 guineas. The grand rooms, the furniture, &c. of Carlton-house were cased, and the whole locked up, except two or three small apartments for his highness's use, when he occasionally came to town.

The expense of his royal highness, was chiefly confined to his building and his stud; the latter of which cost him 30,000*l.* per annum.

The household of the prince was now to be reduced from 25, to 5,000*l.* per annum; and it amounted to that sum in consequence of his highness having settled small pensions on a number of old domestics, who depended upon him for subsistence. His stables instead of 30,000*l.*, did not now cost him more than 2,000*l.* per annum. His table which was always managed with great economy, and which, notwithstanding his superb entertainments, never cost more than between 9, and 10,000*l.* per annum, was now confined within 2, or 3,000*l.*

The conduct of the royal father on the present occasion, was governed by the emergency of the times; that of the son proves the felicity of a ready submission to the dictates of his superior. The former, being convinced that his subjects were already sufficiently bur-

thened by an unavoidable imposition of numerous taxes, was very naturally induced to advise his son to adopt the most eligible plans of economy, relating to his expenditure. The latter, feeling the propriety of the admonition, very readily acquiesced; and, in consequence, the various retrenchments in his household establishment immediately took place.

To those who are desirous to observe his majesty in a religious point of view, the following extract from Mrs. Delany's Letters will afford peculiar pleasure; it is no common trait in the royal character, to find the monarch, surrounded by his family, at his devotions at the early hour of eight; and so powerful an example could not fail to have a most salutary effect upon the giddy and the thoughtless, who are the general attendants of a court.

"I seldom miss going to early prayers at the king's chapel, at eight o'clock; where I never fail of seeing their majesties and all the royal family. The common way of going up to the chapel is through the great entrance into the castle, which is a large room with stone pillars, at the corner of which is a narrow winding staircase, which leads to the chapel; but their majesties, with their usual goodness and indulgence, have ordered that I should be admitted through the great staircase, which is a very easy ascent. When chapel is over, all the congregation make a line in the great portico till their majesties have passed; for they always walk to chapel and back again, and speak to every body of consequence as they pass: indeed, it is a delightful sight to see so much beauty, dignity, and condescension, united as they are in the royal family. I come home to breakfast generally about nine o'clock: if I and the weather are well enough, I take the air for two hours. The rest of the morning is devoted to business, and the company of my par-

ticular friends. I admit no formal visitors, as I really have not time or spirits for it, and every body here is very civil and very considerate. My afternoons I keep entirely to myself, that I may have no interruption whenever my royal neighbours condescend to visit me: their usual time of coming is between six and seven o'clock, and generally stay till between eight and nine. They always drink tea here, and my niece has the honour of dealing it about to all the royal family, as they will not suffer me to do it (though it is my place); the queen always placing me upon the sofa by her, and the king when he sits down, which is seldom, sits next the sofa. Indeed, their visits are not limited to the afternoons, for their majesties often call on me in the morning and take me as they find me, not suffering any body to give me notice of their being come. Great as my awe is, their majesties have such sweetness of manners that it takes off painful sensation."

We have now to record the daring attempt which was made upon the life of his majesty, by Margaret Nicholson.

It was on Wednesday, August 2d, 1786, his majesty arrived at twelve o'clock, at St. James's from Windsor, and was stepping out of his chariot at the garden entrance to St. James's, near Marlborough wall, when the attack was made upon his life. The woman by whom the desperate attempt was made, had been observed waiting the king's arrival for some time, and previous to the appearance of the carriage, took her situation between two gentlewomen, who were unknown to her, with whom she entered into a slight conversation. On the carriage approaching, she begged, with some earnestness, that they would not impede her in

an attempt to deliver a memorial to his majesty. As the door of the carriage was opened, and the king was in the act of alighting, she started forward, and held a paper towards his majesty, which he received with gracious condescension. At the same instant a knife which she held in her hand, and which was concealed under the memorial, was directed against the breast of the king; the stroke was happily avoided, by his majesty bowing as he took the paper; she made a second stroke, but the attendant* yeoman, seeing her purpose, rushed forward and caught her arm; at the same time Mr. Toplin, the king's footman, seized the knife. The sovereign, with amazing temper and fortitude, exclaimed at the instant, "I have received no injury! don't hurt the woman; the poor creature appears insane!"

His majesty, when he entered the royal apartments, opened the paper, in which appeared written, "To the king's most excellent majesty," the usual head to the petitions, but nothing more.

The woman was dressed in a flowered linen, or muslin gown, black gauze bonnet, black silk cloak, morning wire cap, with blue ribbons, and was about forty years of age, of a moderate stature, pale sallow complexion, and sedate, serious cast of countenance. When her pockets were searched, there was found in them a silver six-pence, and three half-pence, which was all the money she had; and as to clothes, it appears she had no more than what were on her back, and those were very indifferent.

The instrument which she used, was an old ivory-handled desert knife, worn very thin toward the point, and cracked in several places in the handle.

* The earl of Salisbury ordered a gratuity to the yeoman of the guard, and the king's footman, who first secured Mrs. Nicholson, after her attempt upon the king; the rewards were, 100*l.* to the first, and 50*l.* to the other.

His majesty went forward into the palace ; and when he had recovered himself from the surprise, which a circumstance so very extraordinary must have occasioned, seemed much affected ; and uttered some expressions, signifying, that he had not deserved this treatment from any of his subjects.

The woman was immediately taken into custody, and carried into the inner guard-room. While she was there, great numbers of the nobility and others crowded round about her, and asked her a variety of questions, all which she treated with the utmost unconcern and indifference, telling them, that they had no right to question her, and that when she should be brought before the proper persons, she would answer them. They also expostulated with her on the heinous offence she had been guilty of, and the dreadful predicament into which it had brought her ; but she still continued apparently unmoved. When they asked her, however, what could possibly be the motive that led her to so rash a step, she answered, "It was the cause !" and being farther pressed, cried, rather angrily, "that she would die for it !"

She was afterwards removed into the queen's anti-chamber, when the nobility and others flocked around her in still greater numbers, but she refused giving them any kind of satisfaction upon asking her any question, and would by no means gratify their curiosity as to her family, or relieve their anxiety as to the inducement she had been actuated by, in attempting to deprive them of their sovereign.

Such of the members of administration, and great law officers as were in town, and who had been sent to on the occasion, being assembled, a council was immediately formed, and the woman, at five o'clock, was taken before it. There were present, Mr. Pitt, marquis of Carmarthen, lord Sidney, lord Salisbury, the

attorney-general, the solicitor-general, the master of the rolls, and sir Francis Drake, &c. The following magistrates too had also been sent for : sir Robert Taylor, Mr. Bond, Mr. Addington, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Colick.

Previous to this, she was, by order of council, stripped in a private room before she was examined ; two women belonging to St. James's Palace were appointed for that purpose, but nothing was found on her which could lead to any discovery.

The examination being entered upon, she said her name was Margaret Nicholson, that she was the daughter of George Nicholson, of Stockton-upon-Tees, in the county of Durham ; that she had a brother who kept the Three Horse Shoes public-house, in Milford-lane, in the Strand ; that she came to London at twelve years of age ; that she had been a house-maid in several families ; Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Boothby, in Upper Grosvenor-street, Mrs. Rice, Mayfair, Mrs. Beaumont, lord Coventry, lady Seabright, &c., but of late had existed as a sempstress, in the millinery and mantua branches. She worked some time with Mr. Watson, hatter, in New Bond-street, whom she frequently pressed to present petitions in her behalf to his majesty, saying continually she had a large claim upon government.

In the course of her examination, she is said to have exhibited strong marks of insanity. She said she had presented a petition ten days before, and which, upon looking back into the papers, was found true ; but it was such nonsense, that no notice was taken of it ; that if she had not her right, England would be in blood for a thousand generations. Upon being questioned as to her wants, she said, she would answer none but a judge ; *her right was a mystery, &c.*

Being asked where she now lived, she an-

swered, at Mr. Fisk's, stationer, at the corner of Marylebone-lane, Wigmore-street; upon which several of the magistrates, attended by proper officers, were instantly sent to search her lodgings, and to bring Mr. Fisk before the board.

In her lodgings were found three letters, written about her pretended right to the crown, &c., addressed to lord Mansfield, lord Loughborough, and general Bramham.

Mr. Fisk, upon his examination, said, she had lodged with him about three years; that he had not particularly observed any marks of insanity in her, though she was certainly very odd at times; that she subsisted by taking in plain-work, &c.

Dr. Monro was also sent for, and attended. He was questioned as to her lunacy, *viz.* Whether he could discover if she was a lunatic? He answered, that such discovery could not be made immediately; that for the accomplishment of such a purpose, she must be taken under the care and inspection of one of his people for three or four days. After she had been questioned by the physician she appeared much convulsed, and seemed as if she was making an effort to weep, saying, at the same time, "Tears would give her relief!"

Mr. Fisk being farther examined, deposed, that she always appeared a harmless character, and that although she frequently seemed in a state of absence, he never observed greater proofs of insanity in her, than frequently moving her lips, as if talking, and appearing agitated, although in no conversation with any person.

She did not appear the least embarrassed before the council, answered some questions with confidence, and others incoherently. Her object, she said, was to obtain the prayer of her petition by terrifying the king, which she fancied the sight of the knife would have effected. Upon it being observed, that the paper she pre-

sented contained no writing, she replied, the king knew what she wanted, as she had often presented petitions: which papers, it seems upon inquiry, appear to have been delivered; but they abounded in the most glaring inconsistencies, and were disregarded at the time.

At intervals she talked of "a claim on government"—"law suit"—"just cause," and such like sentences; and, in answer to some of the interrogatories the council proposed, said she should avow the motives of her conduct before those who had a right to question her, but that there she would say nothing. After these declarations, she sometimes remained silent for a time, and would not reply to the questions put to her.

Her lodgings were examined a second time, when, besides the several letters already mentioned, there were found several scraps of paper, in which the names of lord Mansfield and other persons of distinction appeared, with some disjointed writing, mentioning effects, and what she denominated "classics," a term she did not seem to understand; all of which denoted a disordered state of mind.

The examination continued till past seven o'clock; when it was proposed to commit her for three or four days, for the purpose of enabling Dr. Monro to observe the state of her mind, in order that he might be enabled to determine whether she was insane or not; but this was objected to, upon an apprehension, that a commitment for that time would be illegal. It was then proposed to send her to Tothill-fields Bridewell; but this was objected to, as she was considered as a state prisoner. At length it was agreed to put her under the care of Mr. Coates, one of his majesty's messengers; and she was accordingly committed into his custody, and carried by him to his house, in Halfmoon-street, Piccadilly.

During the examination, his majesty took his departure for Windsor; but to clear up the general anxiety this alarming attempt had occasioned, when he came from St. James's to his carriage, his face was cloathed in the most comforting smiles; he had, to shew his unconcern, less attendance than is the usual practice, and after turning over some papers with indifference, conversed with a gentleman, who saluted him, and took his leave with the utmost composure.

After the examination was concluded, a state of the particulars that transpired were sent off to Windsor; and at half past eight at night, the woman was committed by order of the privy-council, to the custody of one of the king's messengers, who lodged her at his house in Halfmoon-street.

The nobility in town, as soon as they heard of the daring attempt of this woman, went to St. James's, and surrounded the throne with their congratulations; and amongst the ladies who went to court for the purpose of seeing the woman, were the duchess of Devonshire, lady Duncannon, &c. &c. Many of the foreign ministers also complimented his majesty on the failure of this alarming attempt.

His royal highness the prince of Wales, with proper filial affection, instantly on hearing the danger his majesty had been in, left Brighton, and arrived at Windsor, late on Thursday evening. He remained there that night, afterwards came to Carlton-house, and from thence returned to Brighton.

Thursday morning, the 3d of August, Mr. Justice Addington went to see Margaret Nicholson, at Mr. Coates's, messenger, in Halfmoon-street, and began a conversation with her; upon which she told him, that they had distracted her the day before (meaning Wednesday) with a great number of questions;

that she did not understand them; that they had made her deaf on one side;—but she had it all here (pointing to the back part of her head); that the king had no right to the crown; that the crown was hers, &c.

Mr. Addington permitted her to go on, in order to discover if there was any thing worth noticing.

When she had done running on about the crown, she began about lord Mansfield, and lord Loughborough. She said, that she had brought them both into the world—they owed every thing they had to her;—but she was not their mother—she never knew any man.

It did not appear from any person who knew her, that she was married. It was all a mystery, she said. But she had it all here (pointing again to her head,) and then went on, with saying a good deal more to the same purport.

The knife with which she attempted to stab the king, only just touched his majesty's waistcoat; nothing more.

The cabinet ministers had a meeting on Thursday the 3d, at the lord chancellor's, and came to the resolution of summoning a council for the next day, to be held in the great council-chamber, at St. James's, to determine on the mode of bringing the unfortunate woman to a trial, and to consider on the form of prosecuting a crime so unusual and extraordinary in this country.

On Friday, the 4th, the king arrived about ten minutes before twelve o'clock at St. James's, from Windsor: he was dressed in the Windsor uniform, dark blue, turned up with red, and looked remarkably well.

His majesty, for the first time in his reign, was observed to descend from his carriage with an undrawn hanger in his hand. This circumstance must however be attributed to accident.

The guard was very judiciously increased at the gate, where his majesty alighted, to a serjeant and six grenadiers; four of the yeomen also attended. The concourse of people to see their king, after the recent attack upon his sacred life, was very considerable.

Every face discovered gladness, and without being requested by the centinels, they kept at a respectful distance from the carriage.

A temporary alarm was created by one of the light horse, who preceded the king at full speed, having fallen, in making a sudden turn round the garden wall. The rider disengaged himself with wonderful alacrity, though evidently hurt: the animal was cut by the fall very severely.

After dressing, the king entered the levee room, where a greater number of the nobility attended than had been known since his majesty's accession to the throne. Many old peers, who had not been at St. James's for a number of years, most of the foreign ministers, and an infinity of commoners appeared on the occasion; all of whom testified in the most loyal expressions, their great satisfaction on his majesty's providential escape.

At a quarter past five o'clock, his majesty returned to Windsor.

General Fawcet had a long conference with his majesty, previous to his departure.

After the levee, which was over about three o'clock, the cabinet ministers held a council at the secretary of state's office, Whitehall, on the attempt of Margaret Nicholson. Mr. Coates, the king's messenger, in whose custody she was, received previous orders to prepare her to be brought before them. Dr. Monro and his son attended, who reported, that having paid every proper attention to the culprit, and particularly having visited her that morning, gave it as their opinion that she was *insane*. The

council, in consequence of their evidence, did not order Margaret Nicholson to attend for farther examination, but directed Mr. Coates to keep her safe in custody, and directed the proper officers to send expresses by the king's messengers, to every part of the kingdom, where they had learnt that she at any time resided, in order to be thoroughly informed, if her appearance of insanity could be corroborated by any of her former transactions.

Margaret Nicholson had presented several petitions to the king, and in one or two of the last she makes use of nearly the following words: "If your majesty would wish to avoid *regicide*, you will make some provision for me without delay."

Sir Francis Drake asked her, when in the guard room, what was in the last petition she presented to his majesty? Her answer was—"Nothing: it was only a blank piece of paper to conceal the weapon."

She was asked likewise what was in some former petitions. She said, she could not tell them so well as she could put it on paper; and, being provided with a pen and ink, she wrote down almost verbatim what was contained in one or two which his majesty had not destroyed, and which had been sent for by his order.

A woman of her acquaintance was examined concerning a conversation she held with Mrs. Nicholson on Tuesday, the 20th, when the instrument with which she proposed to have executed the horrid deed was cleaned and sharpened.

It is said, the knife which she used was so much worn, and so very thin, that when she thrust it against his majesty's waistcoat it bent. A gentleman, present at her first examination, tried the point of it against his hand, when the knife bent almost double, without piercing the skin.

When Mr. Coates got home, Mrs. Nicholson was in a very placid humour, owing to the excellent treatment which she received from him; who made it his study to render the miserable woman as comfortable as her unfortunate situation would allow. During the evening, she requested to play a game at whist, which Mr. Coates complied with, and part of the time she was perfectly collected.

An anecdote has been related on the occasion, which did much honour to the humanity and presence of mind of the Spanish *chargé d'affaires*, who no sooner heard of the frustrated attempt than he set out post for Windsor, and immediately sought an audience of her majesty, not as a mere gossip would have done, in order to assure her that the king had received no injury from the knife of the assassin, but with the judicious plan of keeping her majesty engaged in conversation; and thereby to prevent her from hearing any report at all until the king's arrival.

That there was a method in her madness, (if she was indeed a lunatic) is undoubted. On being asked by Lord Salisbury, why she delivered a *carte blanche*, rather than a petition? She answered, her ends could have been accomplished under a blank sheet of paper, as well as by a petition in proper form.

As an instance of her composure—being asked very coolly as to the substance of her petition presented about a fortnight before, she said if they would give her pen and ink, she would write it, which she accordingly did; and on comparing it with the original lying in the office, as before observed, it was found to differ only in *four words*; and they by no means destroyed the purport of it.

On the contrary, when she was perplexed with questions, she ran into all the extravagance of insanity of which we have given several instances in the relation of her former examination.

There is one fact that stands fully established, and that is, that the insanity of the woman seemed to be suspected entirely from the rashness of the attempt she made on the life of the king; before that period she was never supposed to be out of her mind. Mr. Fisk, and Mr. Paule, with one or the other of whom she lived for many years, never considered her as being out of her senses.

A few days after, an extraordinary council was held at the Marquis of Carmarthen's office; at which were present, the lord chancellor, Mr. Pitt, the lords Carmarthen and Sidney, the archbishop of Canterbury, the attorney and solicitor-general, &c., in order to examine farther into the affair of Margaret Nicholson, and report the same to his majesty. Mr. Fisk was ordered to attend, but he was not examined; Southey, who lodged in the next apartment to Nicholson, was examined. She gave pretty nearly the same account that Fisk had done, viz., that she seemed a quiet woman, except occasionally talking to herself, &c. Another lodger at Mr. Fisk's was summoned, but was not examined. Several other persons were examined, particularly Mr. Watson, hatter, in Bond-street, who gave nearly the same account.

Drs. Monro, sen. and jun. were also examined; as were also Coates the messenger, his wife, and the nurse who attended Nicholson; from whose united testimony it appeared, that Margaret Nicholson was undoubtedly insane.

Lord Sydney ordered her clothes and other necessities, of which she was in great need.

Mr. Napean, lord Sydney's secretary, produced a letter for Mr. Justice Addington's inspection, &c., directed for the Dey of Algiers, and to inquire of Mr. Gammon in Wild-street. But this letter, like the other circumstances, turned out to be a strange, wild, incoherent matter, without the least foundation in truth.

Mr. Addington's concern in this affair undoubtedly reflects the highest honour upon his judgment, penetration, and prudence. And it will not be saying too much to assert, that if the whole examinations had been entirely left to him, he would have finished the business with less trouble, and more satisfaction to the public.

On Monday the 7th, the queen sent for Dr. Foss to Windsor; upon what occasion was not known at the time. But her majesty having cause to relate to the doctor the circumstances of the late attempt upon the king's life, the recital so strongly affected her majesty, she could not refrain from shedding tears very considerably.

In consequence of an order from lord Sydney, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, Margaret Nicholson was on Wednesday morning the 9th, at eleven o'clock, taken by Mr. Coates, the king's messenger, in a hackney-coach to Bedlam. Mrs. Coates, another lady, and the nurse, went with her; as soon as the coach was called to take her away, she was told by Mr. Coates they were going on a party of pleasure, and asked her to accompany them, which she readily agreed to; and stepping into the coach, was in very good spirits, and talked very rationally the whole of the way, till they came under the wall of Bedlam; she then observed, that she knew where they were taking her to. Upon her entrance into Bedlam, she was asked, "if she then knew where she was?" she answered, "perfectly well." The steward of the hospital behaved with much kindness to her, and invited her and the company to dine with him, which they did; and during the whole time she appeared perfectly collected, except when the name of the king was mentioned, whom she continued saying, she expected to visit her. After dinner Mr. Coates again asked

her, "if she knew in what house she was?" she said, "Yes." He then told her, "that he hoped she would patiently and quietly submit to the regulations of that place." She composedly replied, "certainly." He also informed her, that she would be indulged with pen, ink, and paper, to write to such of her friends as she thought proper. This offer she did not then notice. At six o'clock she was conducted to her cell, which had been previously furnished with new bedding, &c., for her reception: and a chain was put round her leg, and fastened to the floor. Whilst this was doing, she was perfectly composed, and did not seem to take any notice of it. On being asked by the steward "if the chain hurt her leg, as it should be altered if it did?" She replied, "No, not at all." Mr. Coates was then about to leave her; but she called to him, and reminded him of his promise, that she should have pen, ink, and paper, saying, that she had letters to write, which she wished to send by him. Pen, ink, and paper were immediately brought her, and Mr. Coates waited near an hour; but she did not attempt to write any thing.

When the examination before the council on Tuesday the 8th, was concluded, it was resolved, to examine Mr. Fisk again the next day; and Wednesday morning the 9th, he waited upon lord Sydney for that purpose; but his lordship told him, that he was perfectly satisfied, from the incontrovertible evidence which had been given of the woman's insanity, and therefore no farther examinations were necessary. The whole of the examinations taken on the Tuesday, together with the opinion of the lords of council thereupon, were laid before his majesty on the following Wednesday, for his approbation. She was to be confined for life, to be supported and taken care of, in case of sickness; but while in health, to be kept at work, or whatever

employment she is capable of, in order to earn her own subsistence*.

Whitehall, August 8, 1786.

This day Margaret Nicholson, in custody for an attempt on his majesty's person, was brought before the lords of his majesty's most honourable privy council, and after a full examination of Dr. John and Dr. Thomas Monro, and several other witnesses, concerning the state of her mind, as well now as for some time past, and also after examining the said Margaret Nicholson in person, their lordships were clearly and unanimously of opinion, that she was and is insane.

Whatever may be said of the insanity of the woman who made this horrid attempt, there must have been something peculiar in the spirit of the times to excite her to so daring an undertaking: mad women have existed at all times, but they never before aimed at such an object. The reason seems to be, that the malice of dis-

appointed men, which formerly used to be directed against ministers alone, had of late years been pointed against the throne itself. Every seditious art had been exerted to inflame the public against the highest personage in the realm. With reasonable people this was of little avail, but it was naturally calculated to excite the frantic enthusiast to such an attempt.

The following account of the manner in which his majesty communicated the affair to the queen is extracted from Delany's Letters:—

"It is impossible for me to enumerate the daily instances I receive from my royal friends; who seem unwearied in the pursuit of making me as happy as they can. I am sure you must be very sensible how thankful I am to providence for the late wonderful escape of his majesty from the stroke of assassination: indeed,

* A parallel case of merciful consideration has been related of queen Elizabeth, when her life was in danger from the vengeful feelings of Margaret Lambrun, one of the attendants upon the unhappy Scottish queen, and whose sorrow for the death of her beloved mistress had been excited to enthusiasm, by the demise of her husband through grief for the melancholy catastrophe at Fotheringay-castle. In order to gratify her vengeance, Margaret assumed male attire, with the designation of Anthony Spark; and, constantly keeping a brace of pistols concealed in her bosom, she attended Elizabeth's court, in hopes of an opportunity of assassinating that monarch, and resolved upon subsequent self-murder. Understanding one day that the queen was promenading in the garden at Greenwich, she hastened to the spot; but, in pushing through the crowd, excited the suspicions of the yeomen of the guard, by dropping, accidentally, one of her pistols, as it is stated, but more probably a dagger, as pistols at that period were merely match-locks, and therefore not a likely weapon, either for common use, or facile concealment. The alarm soon spread, and coming to the ears of the queen, she desired to examine the culprit personally previous to her being sent to the Tower; and, having demanded her name, country, quality, and intentions, Margaret boldly disclosed the whole truth, mixed with some severe reflections upon her majesty's conduct, and a vindication of her own feelings.

The queen listened coolly and attentively; and, at the close of this extraordinary confession, said, "You are pershaded then that in this step you have done nothing but what your duty required.—What think you is my duty towards you?" Without tremor or hesitation, the prisoner demanded whether that question was put in the character of a queen or of a judge; to which Elizabeth answered, in the character of a queen. "Then," said Lambrun, "it is your duty to grant me a pardon." The queen was silent for a moment, and then said with an air of deep thought, "But what assurance can you give me that you will not again make a similar attempt?" To which Margaret replied, that a favour ceased to be so, when yielded under restraints, and that the queen in thus granting pardon would be dropping that merciful character, and assuming that of a judge. Turning round to her courtiers, Elizabeth said, "I have been a queen thirty years, and never had the truth spoken so plain to me before." Then with a dignified smile, she desired that an entire and unconditional pardon should be recorded; and refused to listen to the suggestions of her ministers, who were anxious for punishment. Lambrun then very coolly requested her majesty to grant her the further favour of a safe conduct out of the kingdom; under the protection of which she proceeded to France, and there ended her days, yielding up vengeance to magnanimity.

the horror that there was a possibility that such an attempt should be made, shocked me so much at first, that I could hardly enjoy the blessing of such a preservation. The king would not suffer any body to inform the queen of that event; till he could show himself in person to her. He returned to Windsor as soon as the council was over. When his majesty entered the queen's dressing-room, he found her with the two eldest princesses; and entering, in an animated manner, said, "Here I am, safe and well!" The queen suspected from this saying that some accident had happened, on which he informed her of the whole affair. The queen stood struck and motionless for some time, till the princesses burst into tears, in which she immediately found relief by joining with them. Joy soon succeeded this agitation of mind, on the assurance that the person was insane that had the boldness to make the attack, which took off all aggravating suspicion; and it has been the means of showing the whole kingdom, that the king has the hearts of his subjects."

The following anecdote is related of his majesty on this occasion:—A nobleman then not in high favor with his majesty, on congratulating him on his fortunate escape, and talking largely on the danger of the disaffected, and that some strong measures should be taken to prevent such occurrences in future. "Measures, measures," said the king, "no doubt but my sacred person will be well taken care of, and my good council will receive all petitions for me in future, as it is not necessary for me either to hear or see them; but your lordship will give me leave to think, and I assure you that Mrs. Meggy never intended to hurt me. Good morning, my lord:" on saying which, his majesty's looks expressed more than his words.

Congratulatory addresses on his majesty's

escape poured in from all parts of the kingdom, and on no occasion was the honour of knighthood so liberally bestowed as upon the gentlemen who presented these addresses. But it was considered by many, that there was a political motive attached to this lavish distribution of knighthood by his majesty; for, although the cause which gave rise to them was alarming, yet on the investigation, it did not appear to be attended with those consequences which were at first suspected. The honour of knighthood became soon afterwards a subject of ridicule, for, on any gentleman receiving that honour, if the occasion were trivial, he was generally called one of Peg Nicholson's knights.

This event derived its principal force and effect rather from its name than its actual existence; yet by alarming the minds of every class of people for the safety of the sovereign, it added new solidity to his throne, and diffused an unexampled popularity around his person. No circumstances of fanaticism, rebellion, or atrocity accompanied this act, or gave it birth. It neither resembled the attempts made against Elizabeth, or against William the Third. Insanity alone armed the hand of a wretched female maniac, who was disarmed and seized with the utmost facility, as soon as her design began to manifest itself. The nation, however, did not measure its exultation, or mark its general joy by an exact proportion to the actual danger from which their sovereign had escaped. Henry the Fourth, who was born for the delight of the human race, had he escaped from the dagger of Ravallac, could not have received more universal, more flattering, or more cordial testimonies of the attachment of his people, than were laid at the feet of George the Third, in eager profusion. Addresses are not indeed always to be regarded as the indisputable tests

of the real sentiments or adherence of the English people, nor have any of our most beloved princes received more numerous or more flattering ones than did James the Second, and Richard Cromwell. Usurpers and tyrants have been successively complimented with almost the same professions of duty and affection. But in this instance, the general joy naturally arising in every loyal breast, from a consciousness of the danger with which their sovereign had been menaced, and from which he escaped, obliterated at once the remembrance of that unhappy war which emancipated America, restored the prostrate gemus of France, and rendered back to Spain the proudest trophies of more triumphant reigns. All these calamities were buried in the sentiments and expressions of pleasure and exultation, resulting from the escape of the king from the knife of the assassin.

To so extraordinary and improbable a point of popularity had George the Third been elevated by a combination of circumstances, after a reign of twenty-six years, the first portion of which contains few events worthy the commemoration of history, except a peace, unquestionably inferior to the just expectations of a victorious nation, but the latter part of which saw the altar of victory thrown down, and the imperial eagles which had soared so high, trampled in the dust, insulted, and expiring;—a reign, longer than that of any preceding monarch, rendered the character of the king intimately known to every order of his subjects; and, although history may not rank him among those few chosen and immortal spirits raised up by Providence in its bounty for the felicity and admiration of mankind, yet will she, when Faction and Party are extinct, consign him no mean or unworthy place in the temple of departed monarchs. If he shall not be placed with

Trajan, and Antoninus, and Aurelius, yet shall he soar above the limits of a vulgar fate. He did not like Louis XIV. waste the blood of his people in ostentatious and wanton invasions of the dominions of princes allied to him by descent, or connected with him by treaties. His wars originated in principles which even rebellion must respect, although she may oppose. Fortitude, equanimity, lenity, benignity, all the virtues which adorn the humble walks of private life, were to be traced in the palace of George III., and they accompanied him through every period of his reign. If he did not rival the Medicis in the protection of the arts and sciences, he at least extended to them a degree of patronage and of attention, which has neither been characteristic of, nor hereditary in the house of Hanover, since their accession to the throne of England. His continence, the decorum of his manners, and his conjugal virtues, have, even in an age like this, produced an effect proportionable to their intrinsic merits, and have held him up to the public eye in a point of view, to which no heart of feeling, or mind of reflection can even be insensible.

Towards the close of this year, his majesty experienced a domestic affliction in the decease of his favourite aunt the princess Amelia, who died on the 31st of October. She had been long aware of her approaching dissolution, for about a fortnight previous to her death, she consulted her physician Dr. Warren, asking him with the most firm composure, “how long he thought her existence might be prolonged.” He replied, “that it was impossible strictly to tell: that her dissolution would probably take place within three or four days, but it was within the limit of possibility her life might be extended to a week.” This decision her royal highness received with truly Christian fortitude. Her time from that moment was employed in

acting as her own executrix. She disposed of all her domestic affairs, adjusted the gratuities to be given to every person around her, and added a codicil to her will which had been drawn up for a considerable time.

The following instance of self-denial and disinterestedness occurred in the person of the housekeeper of the princess Amelia, which is seldom to be met in any sphere of life. The princess, a few hours before her death, desired the ladies of the bedchamber, who were waiting on her, to retire from her room, and to leave the housekeeper, who had been particularly attentive to her during her illness, alone with her. When they had retired, the princess ordered the housekeeper to lock the door, as she had something particular to say to her. The woman was unwilling to do it, which the princess perceiving, said it did not signify, and desired her to come close to her. She then desired to have her pockets given to her, from which she took a parcel of bank notes, and told the housekeeper that although she had remembered her in her will, she nevertheless desired her to take them as a further proof of her regard from the great attention she had shewn during her illness. The housekeeper refused; the princess insisted repeatedly, but was not able to alter the resolution of her servant, who said, she would be amply gratified if it should please God to spare the life of her dear mistress; and the princess actually died without being able to prevail on her to accept the gratuity. This fact coming to the ears of his majesty, he determined to remunerate the housekeeper himself, and settled a pension upon her of 25*l.* per annum.

The Harcourt family were always in high favour with his majesty, and he often paid them friendly visits at their seat at Newnham, near Oxford. One of these has been already men-

tioned, and in the course of this year, a second visit was paid. One morning after having attended divine service at Newnham-church, the royal family set off for the university, where they arrived between one and two, and were received with all due collegiate state by the heads of houses, university officers, &c., accompanied by the duke of Marlborough and other nobility and gentry.

Shortly after their arrival in Oxford, they marched in grand procession to the theatre, where the king took the chancellor's chair, and received a most loyal address from the university, expressive of their joy at his happy deliverance from the late nefarious attempt against his life; to which his majesty answered, that such dutiful sentiments, on this his second visit to a seat of learning, called forth his warmest thanks, and that he was equally sensible of their respectful expressions towards the queen as towards himself; to which he added, that the university of Oxford might ever depend upon his inclination to encourage every branch of science, "as the more my subjects are enlightened, the more they must be attached to the excellent constitution established in this realm."

A perambulation of all the colleges now took place, with an elegant repast at Trinity; from which place the royal party proceeded to the council-chamber of the corporation, to receive the address from the city; after which they returned to dine at Newnham, and the next day visited Blenheim, where his majesty expressed great admiration of the paintings, gardens, and park, departing in the evening to Newnham, and thence to Windsor.

In a political point of view the year 1786 is remarkable for the establishment of Mr. Pitt's celebrated sinking fund for the gradual diminution of the national debt. The plan was framed

by a select committee appointed early in the session, for the purpose of examining the annual amount of the income and expenditure, and its general outline was as follows:—By the report of the committee it appeared, that the annual income for the year 1785 had been 15,379,182*l.* and the annual expenditure, 14,478,181*l.* leaving a surplus of 901,001*l.*, and that in the year 1786, the income had been 15,397,471*l.*, and the expenditure the same as the preceding year, leaving a surplus of 919,290*l.* On the basis of this surplus, Mr. Pitt rested the whole fabric of his new system. He proposed to appropriate one million annually as a sinking fund, to be applied to no other purpose whatever, in any circumstances of the state, but to the gradual extinction of the national debt. To complete the annual sum of one million, he added one penny per gallon to the tax on British spirits. It must be confessed, however, that the most solid objections were those which were alleged against the proposed method of applying the surplus, and against that part of the plan which rendered the annual million unalienable in any circumstances whatever, and which appropriated it to the purchase of stock, whatever mode might be proposed for a more profitable application. It was proved that in certain circumstances, particularly in case of war, the government, while it borrowed upon loans might actually pay a higher interest than it received, and that even in the present instance, by the issuing of exchequer bills, it would be subject to a loss which could not be compensated by purchases in the funds; that it would buy stock dear to sell it cheap, and would be engaged to pay the holders of these bills a higher interest and profit, than was secured in return upon the money which it laid out. The plan of paying off a debt in this manner, by borrowing again was ridiculed as little better

than a piece of political empiricism, and a species of financial legerdemain; and it is singular that his majesty, who was by no means deeply versed in the science of finance, actually made the following remark, when the system of Mr. Pitt's sinking fund was laid before him, "Pitt's sinking fund is a bubble, for he is merely borrowing of Peter to pay Paul, and therefore it is a transfer of debt, and not a liquidation of it." When Pitt afterwards attempted to explain his system to his majesty, the latter, as if almost inspired with a spirit of divination, said, "Your sinking-fund may do as long as your income exceeds your expenditure, but suppose at some future period, your expenditure should exceed your income, how then?" "Then, please your majesty," said Pitt, "we must sink altogether."

Could the king and his great minister look upon the present state of our finances, well then might the dying words of the latter be repeated, "O my country!"

A commercial treaty was at this time signed between this country and France, on which occasion, a brilliant and highly-finished picture of the French king, set in diamonds, was presented on the 29th of November, by Mr. Eden to his majesty at St. James's. Mr. Eden received it from the French king himself, in order to deliver it in person to the British sovereign, as a commemoration of the promised amity between both potentates, in consequence of the signing of the commercial treaty.

Their majesties' domestic circle was much increased at the close of the year, by the arrival of several foreigners of distinction, amongst whom were her majesty's brother, prince Charles of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and the archduke and duchess of Austria. The latter accepted an invitation to a grand dinner at Windsor, where every thing was prepared on a scale of the utmost magnificence.

Windsor-castle was at this time undergoing very considerable repairs, but the workmen were for a time removed, and the coverings being taken off the costly furniture, the illustrious visitors were conducted through all the apartments by their majesties in person. Two hours elapsed in the examination of the various objects which excited their curiosity, after which the party proceeded to St. George's Chapel, where, by the king's express command, the cartoon of the Resurrection was hung up, which was then in progress of painting by Mr. West, as it was his majesty's particular wish that the imperial guests should be able to form an idea of what the painted window would be when completed. The Rev. Mr. Lackman and Mr. West attended, together with Mr. Jarvis, who had with him part of the window, with which the archduke, the prince Albani, &c., appeared to be highly delighted.

Their majesties now returned with their illustrious guests at four o'clock to dinner, in one of the great apartments of the Castle. At seven o'clock they retired to a grand concert in the king's guard chamber, which lasted until eleven, consisting of four acts; in the intervals of which, the company were entertained with tea and other refreshments in adjoining apartments. But that, which rendered the entertainment superior to what any other sovereign in Europe or the world could give, was the introduction of Dr. Herschel and his grand telescope, which he had recently completed, previously to the immense one which is now standing near Slough. With this instrument, the night fortunately being favourable, that illustrious astronomer exhibited the various heavenly bodies, to the great delight and astonishment of the august party.

At eleven o'clock, the great doors of St. George's Hall next to the guard or concert

room were thrown open, and exhibited a scene of such splendor and magnificence, as it was politely observed no one present could have imagined possible to be surpassed by any thing in those splendid orbs which they had just been viewing. In this hall were two tables covered with a most magnificent supper, at one of which sat royalty, and at the other all the foreign and home nobility who had been invited. After an hour and a half dedicated to friendly conviviality, the royal party rose, followed by the company, and passed into the guard-chamber, where they remained for some time exchanging mutual compliments, when their illustrious visitors took leave, and returned to the metropolis.

Amongst the political phenomena of the last century, and which was certainly the most prominent feature which characterized the close of the year 1786, may be considered the possession of the first executive office in this complicated government quietly retained by a youth, who had already held the situation above three years. Perhaps no time ever beheld so singular and unexampled a circumstance. Favourites have indeed in every age with unexperienced hand presumed to guide the vessel of state, elate with the insolence of youth, and intoxicated with the royal favour. Thus temerity and incapacity have usually too carried with them their own punishment, and soon conducted the pageant to ignominy, and frequently to death. But, in a nation and in a government regulated as this is, where favouritism is either unknown or at least restricted within narrower limits than in more despotic countries, the road to political elevation is widely different. The beams of royal favour, though they may gild and illuminate, yet do not dispense on this temperate region that fostering warmth which can supply every inherent

deficiency, and impart every endowment requisite for the government of mankind. Genius and talents, however sublime and capacious, sustained by industry, and fortified by application, can alone conduct to and sustain on so giddy an eminence. In addition to these requisites, Mr. Pitt was aided by the lustre of hereditary fame, and of his father's services. Above all, he was indebted to a peculiar combination of circumstances, which perhaps more than all his virtues or endowments, elevated him to the premature possession of the highest employment of the state. It must, however, be confessed even by his enemies, that he was not found unworthy of so rapid and extraordinary a promotion to the summit of power, and that he betrayed little, if any, of the fire and promptitude on one hand, or of the intemperance and inexperience on the other, usually characteristic of youth.

The principal part of the reign of George III. is so identified with the name of Pitt, that the principal events of it cannot be mentioned without referring in some degree to the influence or interference of that distinguished statesman. His majesty knew his value, and so long as Pitt stood at the helm, the vessel of the state braved every storm, and when the lightning of rebellion flashed around it, he still stood undaunted, and saved his monarch and his country.

It has fallen to the lot of few princes, of whom history has preserved any authentic record, to enjoy so considerable a portion of the personal attachment, respect, and adherence of his subjects, after the unprecedented disgraces and calamities of his reign, as George the Third appeared to possess at the opening of the year 1787. The loss of thirteen colonies, of both the Floridas, part of our West-India islands, and of Minorca—the surrender of

whole armies—the ignominious flight of English fleets before those of France and Spain—the expenditure of a hundred and thirty million of pounds—the abyss of ruin into which a long train of unfortunate councils had plunged the empire—the accumulation of taxes, under which every order of the community was oppressed and overwhelmed, and the degree of political insignificance into which the country had fallen, which once dispensed its largesses and its subsidies to half the princes of Europe; these misfortunes, multiplied, and almost unparalleled as they were, did not yet deprive his majesty of the affections of his people. His popularity, which during the first years of his reign, and in all the sunshine of youth—internal prosperity and external success—could not sustain itself against a periodical paper written by a private gentleman, survived to the admiration of mankind this mighty wreck, and even renewed itself amidst the convulsions and decline of the British empire.

Many circumstances curious to investigate, conduced to produce this extraordinary event. Had George the Third like Charles the Second or William the Third remained childless on the throne, and had her majesty like Catherine or Mary been only the partner of a barren bed, it is to be apprehended that during the rage of faction, and the disgraces of a civil and a foreign war, with which England was shaken for so many years, the diadem rudely assailed might perhaps have been torn from the royal brow. At that awful and memorable era, when in June 1780, London blazed through all her streets; when in the sublime language of Tacitus—*Urbs, incendiis, vastata, consumptis antiquissimis delubris, ipso capitolio civium manibus insenso. Odio et terrore corrupti in dominos servi in patronos, liberti.*—When the empire, convulsed and agonizing,

seemed to await her final doom from the parricide hands of her own children, the monarch might have been involved in the general ruin. But the numerous family of the sovereign, his private virtues and domestic character, drew a veil even in the opinion of his enemies across the errors of his government and administration.

These reflections have been forced upon us, in consequence of some particular circumstances which took place during the year 1787 in the royal family, and in which the popularity of the king, and the unpopularity of his eldest son, formed a singular contrast.

It was in the beginning of the year 1787 that his majesty directed his attention to the amelioration of prison discipline, to which he was in a great degree actuated by the remonstrances of the philanthropist Howard. A most reprehensible delay had for a long time existed in the transportation of the convicts, by which the gaols were so much crowded that the most infectious maladies prevailed, and moral contamination was imparted to the young and inexperienced offender. It was at an interview which Howard had with his majesty at Windsor, that the state, not only of the metropolitan prisons but also of the country ones, was submitted to his majesty, and a plan was immediately drawn up, by which the evils, so justly complained of could be removed. His majesty notified this plan to parliament in his speech, on the 23d of January, when he says, "A plan has been formed, by my direction, for transporting a number of convicts, in order to remove the inconvenience which arose from the crowded state of the gaols, in different parts of the kingdom; and you will, I doubt not, take such further measures as may be necessary for this purpose." It was subsequently submitted to his majesty that the finances of the country

were not able to bear the enormous expense of transporting such a number of felons, and he immediately ordered that 5,000*l.* should be advanced from his privy purse towards a fund for removing the convicts, which by the exertions of some other philanthropists soon exceeded the sum of 10,000*l.*, and his majesty had ultimately the satisfaction of knowing, that every felon had been removed on whom the sentence of transportation had been passed.

It was in consequence of the truly christian and philanthropic exertions of Howard, at this particular period, in regard to the improvement of the gaols, that a subscription was set on foot, at the head of which stood his majesty's name, for erecting a statue to the great philanthropist. The honour was, however, declined in the following letter :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

You are entitled to all the gratitude I can express for the testimony of approbation you have intended me ; and I am truly sensible of the honour done me ; but at the same time you must permit me to inform you, that I cannot, without violating all my feelings, consent to it, and that the execution of your design would be a cruel punishment to me. It is therefore my earnest request that those friends who wish my happiness and future comfort in life, would withdraw their names from the subscription, and that the execution of your design may be laid aside for ever.

I shall always think the reforms now going on in several jails of this kingdom, and which I hope will become general, the greatest honour, and the most ample reward I can possibly receive.

I must further inform you, that I cannot permit the fund which in my absence, and without my consent, hath been called the Howardian Fund, to go in future by that name, and that I will have no concern in the disposal of the money subscribed, my situation and pursuits rendering it impossible for me to pay an attention to such a general plan, which can only be carried into due effect in particular

districts, by a constant attention, and a constant residence.

I am, my lords and gentlemen,
Your obliged and faithful humble servant,
JOHN HOWARD.

This letter being shewn to his majesty, he exclaimed, "True, true, Howard wants no statue, his actions will live when every statue is crumbled into dust."

His majesty always testified particular anxiety to examine whatever was curious in mechanism or the arts, and having frequently heard of the extensive brewing establishment of Mr. Whitbread, he determined to visit it, and accordingly due notice was sent to the proprietor of the honour intended him. The visit took place on the 26th of May. The early hour of ten in the morning was appointed, but his majesty in this respect exceeded his usual punctuality, for he was in Chiswell-street with her majesty and three of the princesses, a quarter of an hour before the appointed time. The illustrious visitors were received by Mr. Whitbread and his daughter, and were invited to partake of an elegant breakfast, which had been provided, but which their majesties politely declined, and proceeded immediately to inspect the works.

The great steam-engine first attracted the attention of the royal visitors, the motion and powers of which were explained to the queen and princesses by his majesty in his own hurried manner, turning round every now and then to ask a question himself, but scarcely ever waiting for an answer. The great store, containing three thousand barrels of beer, was next examined, and the queen and princesses were so much amused with the store cistern, that they went into it, though the aperture was so small as scarcely to admit their entrance into a cavity capable of containing four thousand barrels.

Mr. Whitbread, at this time, was possessed of a horse remarkable for its height, and the horse-keeper, who had charge of eighty horses employed in the works, was so elated with the presence of royalty and the vanity of office, that he boldly told the king he would shew his majesty the highest horse amongst his subjects. His majesty, in the most good natured manner smiled to see the vaunting groom on his high horse, and examined the animal in the most critical manner. It was above seventeen hands high, and was allowed to be one of the noblest animals of the stud.

His majesty next examined the cooperage, where Mr. Whitbread was assailed by such a number of questions from his majesty, that Peter Pindar, in his humorous description of this visit of his majesty, makes him exclaim—

Now said the brewer, may I be curst,
If I know which to answer first.

His majesty first asked how far the brewer's barrels would extend if placed side by side; which the brewer not being able to answer, his majesty then asked how far they would extend if placed end to end, to which Mr. Whitbread answered, "Perhaps to Kew."

And this the wond'ring king
Repeated to the wond'ring queen.

But the most ridiculous question which his majesty is made to ask is the following:

Grains? grains?—grains come from hops?
No, please your majesty, said the brewer with a smile,
Grains come from malt—aye, aye, malt, malt,—I meant
malt all the while.

The most minute pains had been taken to render this visit of their majesties a comfortable one, as every part of the route that was wet or dirty was covered with matting, and lamps were fixed in all those places where there was any obscurity. The royal party having

minutely examined every part of this immense establishment, repaired to the house, where a magnificent cold collation was served up on a beautiful service of plate; the most costly wines abounded on the table, but his majesty, with a truly English spirit, would taste no other beverage than porter, which was poured out to him from an immense bottle.

The royal party cheerfully partook of the collation, and laying aside all the forms of etiquette, invited the duchess of Ancaster and lady Harcourt to join them, the gentlemen taking their refreshment in an adjoining apartment.

At two o'clock his majesty rose, and expressed the highest satisfaction at the day's exhibition and entertainment, and most particularly at the elegance and urbanity of his hosts, from whom he took leave in the most condescending manner, expressing a wish to see Mr. Whitbread and his family at Windsor. His majesty offered to confer the honour of knighthood upon Mr. Whitbread, but it was declined.

Circumstances of a very particular nature disturbed at this time the harmony of the royal family, and which became the general topic of public conversation. It is the nature of vigilant malice, and consonant to the bitterness of party, to pick up with eagerness, and to circulate with wicked celerity every fugitive whisper that floats within the infected horizon of a court. Idly insignificant at first, it might die away like other vapours; but a sort of courtly chameleons, who hover round a palace, soon change its inoffensive spirit, and corrupt its very nature, till the empire breathes—for the contagion spreads with more than electrical quickness—amidst poison and putridity.

The intemperance and extravagance of the heir apparent had been long a source of the

most poignant affliction to his royal father. The connexion also which he had formed with the party in opposition to his father's ministers, and the votes which he gave in the house of lords, contrary to the dignity and propriety of his great political character, did not tend by any means to allay the parental displeasure, but on the contrary, served rather to increase it. It is far from our intention to intimate that an heir apparent to the crown of this kingdom should hide himself as it were behind a curtain, or only present himself to public attention as a character of mere negative qualifications and insipid virtue; but of this we are confident, that he would do well to preserve himself in calm and tranquil dignity, taking no violent part in public measures, and living in a continual state of preparation to exercise the sovereign authority when he should be called to the inheritance of it. He should not waste his strength in premature and petty efforts, but preserve it for the great trial that awaits him; nor should he oppose his mind to the danger of contracting the habits and prejudices of a party, which will certainly prevent him when he attains the crown, from being the king of more than half his people.

The breach, however, which existed at this time at Buckingham-house, was however more of a private than a political nature, and obliged the heir apparent not only to absent himself from the royal presence, but to retire to the Pavilion at Brighton, until a reconciliation could be effected. In the mean time every engine which Faction or Party could invent was set in motion, to rouse the parent against the son, and the son against the parent. Every plain fact was fraudulently distorted; nor the peace of families, nor the soft bonds that unite child and parent, or which sustain the hope and pride of a nation, could stand secure. Every

hour gave rise to some improbable and monstrous tale, every moment had its slander, and the court insect was for ever on the wing, collecting venom. As a specimen of the vituperating spirit of the times, we shall only state one instance.

The prince coming one day to town, accidentally met his father, who was driving in his carriage along Pall-Mall, and the former immediately stopped, and saluted his father in the most respectful manner. The salute was returned by his majesty in an equally respectful manner; but on the following day, the town rang with the abuse of his majesty in meanly *refusing* to return the salute of his son, and turning away with indignation from him. Other reports of the most pestilential nature were circulated; and many there were who could think it possible, that our late gracious sovereign, educated in palaces, and of necessity passing his life in the habitual ceremonies of an exalted station, could so far forget the usual and indispensable forms of every prince and of every gentleman in public, as not only to refuse, but to spurn at and turn indignant from a due mark of reverence and filial obedience shewn him by his royal son in the streets of the metropolis. To admit such detractions for a moment as facts, would be to combine all that is great and supreme in situation, with all that is low and inferior in manners. If such insinuations do not endanger both the public and private tranquillity—if they do not tend to loosen and snap asunder the most inviolable and tender ties—if they do not exasperate the estranged heart, and close yet more fast the alienated hand—if they are not in themselves a departure from that sacred and primeval law, written by the finger not only of Nature but of Nature's God, which has promised blessedness to the peace-makers—if, in fine, such depre-

cated malice, varnished by the outward shew of piety, and bearing on the surface the well-imitated gloss of loyalty and patriotism, be not establishing the rival factions of the father and the son—we know not under what terms to describe it.

The financial embarrassments of the Prince of Wales had been laid before his majesty, and excited his keenest indignation, and it was at last determined to bring the matter before parliament. Accordingly on the 20th of April, previous to the usual motions relative to the finances of the nation, Mr. Alderman Newnham addressed the house of commons, on the embarrassed circumstances of the prince of Wales.

Notwithstanding the allowance of 50,000*l.* per annum from the civil list, it appeared, that in the year 1786 the prince had contracted debts to the amount of 100,000*l.*, exclusive of 50,000*l.* and upwards, expended upon Carlton-house. In this embarrassed state, his first application was to his royal father; but “a direct refusal to afford him any relief, was conveyed to his royal highness through one of his principal officers of state.” It is reported, that the duke of Orleans, who was at this time on a visit to England, pressed him in the strongest manner to make use of his fortune to whatever extent he might find necessary, till some favourable change should take place in his circumstances; but this offer the prince declined.

The only expedient, therefore, that remained, was to throw himself upon the generosity of the nation; and on this principle, Mr. Alderman Newnham demanded of the chancellor of the exchequer, whether it was the intention of his majesty's ministers to bring forward any proposal for rescuing the heir apparent from his present distressed and embarrassed situation? To this question the chancellor of the exchequer

replied, that it was not his duty to introduce a subject of that nature, without his majesty's special command; and he could only say at present, that he had not been honoured with any such command. Mr. Newnham, therefore, gave notice of his intentions to bring the subject regularly, by motion, before the house, on the 4th of May.

The activity of the opposition party, in this affair, created, in the mean time, no inconsiderable anxiety and uneasiness to the ministers. On the 24th of April, Mr. Pitt, after requesting that Mr. Newnham would inform the house more particularly of the nature of the intended motion, adverted to the extreme delicacy of the subject, and declared that the knowledge he possessed of many circumstances relating to it made him desirous of persuading the house to avoid, if possible, the discussion. Mr. Rolle, an adherent of the minister, declared, at the same time, "that the question involved matter by which the constitution, both in church and state, might be essentially affected; and that if the friends of the prince persisted in their intention, it would be necessary to inquire into those circumstances also."

The circumstances adverted to by Mr. Rolle, have been said to relate to some supposed connexion between the prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert, a lady of a very respectable Roman Catholic family, to whom he had for some time manifested a strong attachment. "For (as a contemporary author remarks) notwithstanding the possibility of a marriage between these two parties was effectually guarded against by the royal marriage-act, great pains had been taken, and not entirely without success, to mislead and inflame the minds of the vulgar upon that subject; with what view, it would have been more easy to conceive in former times than at present, when all the enemies of the house of

Brunsuick are supposed to have ceased from among the nation."

Several desultory conversations ensued in the house, at different times, upon the subject; and on the 30th of April, Mr. Fox came down to the house, with immediate authority from the prince of Wales, to assure them, that there was no part of his conduct that he was afraid or unwilling to have investigated in the fullest manner. The firmness of the prince's friends, on this occasion, appears to have gained him an entire victory over the ministry; for "on the 3d of May, Mr. Pitt had an audience at Carlton-house; and the same night the prince was informed by his majesty's command, in general terms, that if the motion intended to be made the next day in the house of commons, should be withdrawn, every thing might be settled to his royal highness's satisfaction." The motion was accordingly withdrawn; and on the 23d of May, in consequence of a message from his majesty, the sum of 161,000*l.* was voted for the relief of the prince of Wales, and 20,000*l.* on account of the works at Carlton-house.

It was on the 21st of May that the reconciliation took place between his majesty and the prince of Wales; on which day, the former sent a message to his royal highness, desiring to see him at Buckingham-house. His royal highness hastened to pay his duty to the king, and the two great personages continued in conference together for nearly three hours. The prince had the honour of being introduced by the king to his royal mother and sisters; and perhaps a scene of purer or more tender congratulations was never exhibited than on this occasion.

After this meeting with the king, the prince re-delivered the key of office to Lord Southampton, and messages were sent to all the members

of his household; requiring their attendance as formerly; and on the 23d lord Southampton carried a message of thanks from the prince of Wales to the king at St. James's, for his message to both houses of parliament.

His majesty at this period pursued the sport of the chase with uncommon ardour, and like all keen sportsmen he felt highly vexed at any interruption, which sometimes happened during the hunt. An odd instance of this nature occurred about this time: a man, named Feltham, who first came about Hampton-court as a cobbler, succeeded so well in fortune that he acquired a long repairing lease of the bridge. On this, he proceeded to alter its form, and removed some old pavilions at the ends, erected to make it look pretty from the gardens. As he was to thrive by his tolls, he kept his gate locked when nothing was passing. One morning the royal hunt came across from Hounslow-heath to the bridge, where the stag had taken water, and swam across. The hounds passed his gate without ceremony, followed by a large party, crying "The king!" Feltham opened his gate, which he closed again after they had rushed through without paying, when a more numerous and showy party came up, vociferating more loudly "The king, the king!" He stood with his key in his hand, though menaced by horse-whips. "I'll tell you what," said he, "hang me, if I open my gate again till I see your money: I pay 400*l.* a-year for this bridge, and I laid out 1,000*l.* upon it: I've let king George through: God bless him! I know of no other king in England. If you have brought the king of France, hang me if I let him pass without the toll." Suddenly the king himself appeared among his attendants. Feltham made his reverence, opened his gate again, and the whole company went over to Moulsey-hurst, when the dogs were at fault. The king, sha-

grined for the moment, sent back lord Sandwich to know the reason of the interruption. The man explained the mistake, and added, that "when royal hunts had passed over this bridge, a guinea had been always paid, which franked all; and that this was his first good turn." Lord Sandwich returned to the king, but his majesty hastily desired him to pay for all his attendants, who amounted to less than forty of the whole party. Feltham's lessor told him that the ladies at court called him a rude fellow; but he replied, that he only took the best means to pay his high rent. The matter was afterwards satisfactorily explained to the king.

The following ludicrous incident occurred during one of the royal hunts, Mr. Carbonell, the wine-merchant, who served his majesty, was a favourite with the king, and used to be admitted to the royal hunts. Returning from the chase one day, his majesty entered affably into conversation with his wine-merchant, and rode *tele-a-tele* with him a considerable way. Lord Walsingham was in attendance, and watching an opportunity, took Mr. Carbonell aside, and whispered something to him. "What's that, what's that," inquired the good-humoured monarch, "Walsingham has been saying to you?" "Please you, Sir, I find I have been guilty of unintentional disrespect; my lord has just informed me that I ought to have *taken off* my hat whenever I addressed your majesty; but your majesty will please to observe, that whenever I hunt, my hat is fastened to my wig, and my wig is tied to my head, and I am riding a very high-spirited horse; so that if any thing goes off, we must all go off together!" The king laughed heartily at the whimsical apology, and was content to chat with his little fat wine-merchant, without endangering his falling from his horse.

His majesty was at this period by no means unmindful of the general interests of literature, for it was his duty, he often said, to patronise those by whose talents every condition of society is improved. He this year conferred the honour of knighthood on John Fenn, esq., who had dedicated to him two quarto volumes of original letters of the reigns of Henry the VIth. and VIIIth., containing a number of state anecdotes of England and France, &c.

Doctor Beattie also paid a second visit to Windsor in the course of this year, and his reception by his majesty is described by the worthy Doctor in the following letter to Miss Valentine:

London, 20th July, 1787.

I am just returned from Windsor, where I passed three days. I went thither, partly to see some friends, but chiefly that I might pay my respects to the king and queen. They both received me in the most gracious manner. I saw the king first on the terrace, where he knew me at first sight, and did me the honour to converse with me a considerable time. Next morning I saw him again at prayers in his chapel, where he was pleased to introduce me to the queen, who inquired very kindly after my health; observed, that many years had passed since she saw me last; regretted the bad weather which I had met with at Windsor, (for it rained incessantly,) which, said she, has made your friends see less of you than they wished; and, after some other conversation, her majesty and the princess Elizabeth, who attended her, made a slight courtesy, and stepped into the carriage, that waited for them at the chapel door. The king remained with us for some time longer, and talked of various matters, particularly the union of the colleges. He asked whether I was for or against it. I told him I was a friend to the union. "But lord Kimbol," said he, "is violent against it;" (this, by the bye, I did not know before). The king spoke jocularly of my having become fat; "I remember the time," said he, "when you were as lean as Dr. **** there," pointing to a gentleman who was standing by. "You look very well," said his majesty to me, "and I am convinced you are well, if you would only think so: do, Dr. Heberden," said the

king, "convince Dr. Beattie that he is in perfect health." (Dr. Heberden was also standing by).

Bishop Porteus was another instance of the king's regard for literary merit, although the report was circulated at the time, that the bishop owed his elevation to the interest of the queen, yet this statement was refuted by Porteus himself, who says that he received a letter from Mr. Pitt, in which his episcopal appointment was announced, stating at the same time, that it was himself who recommended him to his majesty.

It was in the year 1787, that his majesty addressed the letters under the signature of Ralph Robinson to Arthur Young, Esq., on different subjects of practical agriculture; in which he evinced a thorough knowledge of the management of different soils, and some of the leading errors in the then prevailing system of farming are ably exposed. Some of these letters will be given in an appendix at the close of these Memoirs.

It was with the greatest concern that his majesty beheld, at this time, the general dissoluteness, and the laxity of morals, which pervaded all ranks of society; and in consequence, he felt it to be his indispensable duty to exert his authority for the suppression of those evils, and therefore announced his determination to discountenance and punish all breaches of morals in all ranks, especially in regard to such persons as were more particularly employed about the court or government. One of the first steps which his majesty took, was to issue a second time the same proclamation against vice and immorality, which had been issued on his accession to the throne. He also called upon all ranks to set a good example, to attend more punctually to the public offices of divine worship, and strictly enjoined the magistracy to punish and prevent all breaches of the sabbath

day. In fact, the habitual piety of George III., was perhaps the most striking feature of his character. It was manifested at a very early period of his life, and continued with him, bright and glowing, to the last. Although he might be said to be more particularly the father of the established church, he was still the just friend and advocate of genuine religious toleration. All classes of his religious subjects were equally objects of his tenderness and love. Mr. Cobbin, in his *French Teacher*, relates, that his majesty happening one day to pass in his carriage, through a place near one of the royal palaces, where a rabble had gathered together to interrupt the worship at a dissenting meeting-house; his majesty stopped to know the cause of the tumult, and being answered, that it was only some affair between the town's people and the methodists, he replied, loud enough to be heard by many, "The methodists are a quiet, good kind of people, and will disturb nobody, and if I can learn that any person in my employment disturb them, they shall be immediately dismissed." "The king's sentiments," adds Mr. Cobbin, "soon spread through the town, and persecution has not dared to lift its head there since that period."

His majesty's anxiety for the prosperity of the established church was great, yet he was far from being displeased when he saw persons of other persuasions propagating zealously what they believed conscientiously. His displeasure, however, he could not conceal, when he saw men who professed to believe, acting as though they believed not. At the time that the preaching of John Wesley was making so much noise in the country, a certain courtly bishop was animadverting on the circumstance to his majesty, and concluded a doleful exposition of the dangerous consequences to the mother church, by asking, "What was to be done?" The king

smartly replied, "Make a bishop of him, my lord, and then I'll warrant you he'll preach seldom enough."

Another instance of his toleration, is on record. When the first part of Dr. Carey's translation of the Bible into Bengalee arrived in this country, the gentlemen engaged in the management of the mission, requested Mr. Bowyer to present it to his majesty. "I went down," says that gentleman, "to Windsor for that purpose, and immediately wrote to the equerry in waiting, requesting him to inform his majesty, that I wished to present a book to him, and to let me know, where, and at what hour, he would be pleased to receive it." In about two hours afterwards, I received a letter from colonel Fitzroy, informing me, that he had communicated my letter to his majesty, and that the king would wish to receive the book in the castle, on coming out of the chapel, after prayers the next morning. I had been requested by the Rev. Mr. Fuller to make a communication to his majesty respecting the origin and progress of the mission.

"I accordingly sat down in the evening and wrote a letter to his majesty, to accompany the book. I waited on the king in the morning, agreeably to his desire, when he was pleased to read the whole of my letter with the most minute attention, though it occupied three pages of post paper closely written: he then received the book, apparently with peculiar satisfaction, and said, "You will be good enough to inform the gentlemen of the Baptist mission, that I received the book with great pleasure, and return them my best thanks, wishing them every possible success."

Of all institutions which had for their object the diffusion of Christianity and knowledge, his majesty was an ardent and munificent promoter. It has been stated from the pulpit, and we be-

lieve with truth, that a greater number of societies for the promotion of religion and knowledge, and for the relief of human misery, were established during the reign of George III., and chiefly under his encouragement, than in the whole previous period of time since the era of Redemption.

In his attendances on divine service his majesty was always distinguished for the singular earnestness and fervor with which he joined in the devotional exercises. A gentleman who was present one morning in the private chapel at Windsor, about a year before his majesty's late illness commenced, gives the following touching picture of the scene he witnessed on this occasion :

"As soon as the clock struck eight, the gates of the castle were thrown open, and he was conducted to the private chapel by an attendant, who left him there alone. Soon after came the chaplain: he looked out the lessons, &c., then sat down a few minutes, when a pair of folding doors opened, and his majesty, led by two attendants, came in, followed by two of the princesses and lady Albinia Cumberland. After his majesty had been conducted to his chair, service began, when his majesty acted as clerk through every prayer in the most audible manner. At the petition, "Give peace in our time O Lord!" his majesty, with uplifted hands, repeated, "Because there is none other fighteth for us." He then added with the strongest emphasis, "But only thou, O God!" His majesty followed the chaplain through the Psalms, nearly as correctly as if he had possessed his eyesight, and had a book before him."

The Athanasian creed is well known to have been no favourite of the king's. Bishop Watson, in his *Memoirs*, gives us a proof of this in the following anecdote, which was told him by Dr. Heberdeen. The clergyman at Windsor, on a

day when the Athanasian creed was to be read, began with "Whoever will be saved," &c., the king, who usually responded with a loud voice, was silent; the minister repeated in a higher tone his "Whoever;" the king continued silent; at length the Apostles' creed was repeated by the minister, and the king followed him throughout with a distinct and audible voice.

In his majesty's prayer-book, where we implore the Almighty to bless and preserve "Thy servant George, *our most gracious king and governor*," these words appear to have been struck out, and the following written with his own hand: "*An unworthy sinner*."

The deep sense of religion with which his majesty was imbued, doubtless contributed to the invariable firmness and serenity of his mind. When one of the young princes was hourly expected to die, the king was sitting on a Sunday, reading a sermon to his family; an attendant came in with the tidings of the child's death; the king exchanged a look with him, signifying he understood his commission, and then proceeded with his reading till it was finished.

Nor did his majesty himself fail to add examples of useful charity to the precepts laid down for the morals of his subject. He took particular pleasure in assisting the unfortunate, and particularly if they belonged to the lower classes. The following is a striking instance of it: A poor man employed in the royal gardens, through affliction in his family, was in debt about 60*l.*, and in great terror of a prison. He was advised to petition his majesty, which he did after much hesitation, and received a message to wait upon the king next morning at nine o'clock. He was in the garden, but could not muster courage to go to the house. At five minutes past the time appointed, his majesty grew impatient and went into the garden to look for him when catching a glimpse of him

behind some little erection, he called to him, "Halloo!" The man, perceiving he was discovered, ran trembling to the king, who reproved him for his want of punctuality, till he told his majesty the reason. The king then said, "I have inquired into your character, and find you an honest, sober, and industrious man. Here are two purses, the one to pay your debts, the other to make you comfortable." The humble petitioner, overwhelmed with the king's goodness, dropped on his knees, and made a stammering effort to thank and bless his prince, but a flood of tears prevented him. His majesty instantly put forth his hand, and with considerable emotion exclaimed "Get up, get up, thank God that I have it in my power to help an honest man."

The domestic life of the king at this time is described in the following letter of Mrs. Delany, dated May 17, 1787:

"At this time of the year the evenings are devoted by them to the Terrace till eight o'clock, when they return to the Lodge to their tea and concert of music: happy are those who are admitted to that circle! The queen has had the goodness to command me to come to the Lodge, whenever it is quite easy to me to do it, without sending particularly for me, lest it should embarrass me to refuse that honour; so that most evenings, at half an hour past seven, I go to Miss Burney's apartment, and when the royal family return from the Terrace, the king, or one of the princesses (generally the youngest, princess Amelia, just four years old) come into the room, take me by the hand, and lead me into the drawing-room, where there is a chair ready for me by the queen's left hand: the three eldest princesses sit round the table, and the ladies in waiting, lady Charlotte Finch and lady Elizabeth Waldegrave. A vacant chair is left for the king, whenever he

pleases to sit down in it. Every one is employed with pencil, needle, or knotting. Between the pieces of music the conversation is easy and pleasant; and, for an hour before the conclusion of the whole, the king plays at backgammon with one of his equerries, and I am generally dismissed."

It may be safely affirmed, that since the first discovery of music, there never was any exhibition of that charming science which equalled the grand musical festival which was held in Westminster-Abbey on the 28th of May, by the express command of his majesty. The collection was chiefly from Handel, in compliment to his majesty; and when the grand chorus from Samson, "Oh God, who in thy heavenly hand" was sung, and which was executed in the most masterly manner, his majesty appeared wrapped in a kind of ecstacy that wholly absorbed every faculty. The whole of the royal family were present, with the exception of the prince of Wales.

In the early part of August, his majesty was much gratified by a private visit from lord Heathfield, who related to him all the particulars of the siege of Gibraltar. When his lordship had finished his recital, his majesty exclaimed, "Well done Elliott, well done Elliott, but hot work, very hot work."

The birth-day of the prince of Wales was kept by their majesties at Windsor, with uncommon splendor. Some account of it is contained in the following letter of Mrs. Delany's:

"I began this on Saturday, but found myself not equal to finish it, but being better in the evening I went to the Lodge, to Miss Burney's apartments; but had not been there a quarter of an hour before the king walked into the room, took me by the hand, and said, 'Come along, Mrs. Delany,' and led me into the queen's apartment, and placed me in the chair

allotted for me, next to her majesty, (which, however, I am indebted to my deafness for,) where I spent two hours, not knowing which gave me most delight, the harmony of the music, or that of the amiable society. The two princes were there. Yesterday was the prince of Wales's birth-day, and it being Sunday, the entertainment that was to be given was put off till Monday, which was yesterday, for here I was interrupted, and am now come to Tuesday the 14th.

"The entertainment at the Castle, yesterday, was very superb indeed: there were above a hundred people of the first rank, ministers of state, and foreigners invited to come to the Castle. At seven o'clock, and after the drawing-room was over, and all compliments paid and received on the day, the company were conducted into the music-room, where there was a very fine concert, chiefly of Mr. Handel's music, and most exquisitely performed. When that was over, which was about twelve o'clock, there was a supper prepared in St. George's Hall, which for magnificence exceeded every thing that had been done before. The company were not all dispersed till two o'clock; and are invited again to the same entertainment on Thursday, which is the duke of York's birth-day."

A ceremony of a very interesting kind was exhibited on Tuesday, the 4th of September, at Windsor, in St. George's Chapel, which for splendor, elegance, and solemnity, exceeded every previous instance of the same kind.

The circumstance alluded to is, what is called an offering from the knights of the garter, which generally takes place twice a-year, if a chapter can be formed; the chapter consists of three knights.

On this occasion, his majesty presided as sovereign of the order; the other two members

of the chapter were his royal highness the duke of York, and his grace the duke of Montagu.

The ceremony began in the following manner: His majesty, first bending in reverence of the solemn nature of the place, walked up the middle of the chapel, repeating this reverence at the half-way distance from the altar, at which arriving, he knelt and deposited upon it a golden ingot.

The duke of York followed, and repeated the same ceremony with great exactness, placing another golden ingot on the altar.

The duke of Montagu closed the whole, by another repetition of the ceremony, depositing also his gold ingot.

Suitable prayers were said on this occasion, and the ingots, with other contributions, were appropriated to the benefit of the poor.

The expectation of this event had drawn together all the rank, elegance, and beauty in the neighbourhood, so that the chapel was entirely full before ten in the morning, at which hour the ceremony commenced, and presented, indeed, a magnificent and charming spectacle.

Through the whole, the most awful stillness of attention prevailed, and the minds of the spectators received a mingled impression of august dignity, pious awe, and tender ecstasy, that constituted an intellectual gratification of the most delightful and interesting kind.

The dignity that marks the demeanor of his majesty upon all public occasions is well known, and therefore needs no comment: but the manner of the duke of York should not be passed lightly over, as it was such as conciliated the respect and affection of all present, being indeed peculiarly expressive of grace, tenderness, modesty, and devotion, and equally calculated to ennoble the prince, and endear the man.

A spirit of levelling high characters and rank was one of the distinguished marks of these times. Not content with attacking persons of high political notoriety, they dared to go farther, and to enter into the privacies of family retirement, and to spare neither sex nor age in divulging whatever envy had suggested. The poetical satirist was called upon as a powerful auxiliary in conducting the levelling engine, and many satiated themselves with the coarse and unmannerly invective in verse, which they would have overlooked in prose.

Amongst the exalted characters who, at this period, became a victim to the lash of the satirist and the lampooner, his majesty stood the foremost—there was not a fault, which was not magnified into a crime—there was not a weakness which was not converted into a venial sin. Even his very virtues were ridiculed, and every loyal subject, every gentleman, every considerate father of a family, every man of common humanity, was hurt at the cruel and opprobrious treatment, which the good and unoffending king, the very fountain of honour, experienced from the hands of rhyming ruffians.

What a triumph to villany, profligacy, and ignorance, when virtuous and inoffensive characters are singled out for that satire which themselves only can deserve. This is *vis digna lege regi*; expostulation becomes vain, and laws, which might restrain it, cannot be duly executed in a country where licentiousness is unfortunately considered as essential to the existence of civil liberty.

It is a singular fact that his majesty was generally selected by lunatics as the object of their annoyance; and about this time he received a very extraordinary letter from a person of the name of Stone, in which a very warm passion was declared, which he had conceived for the princess royal, and hoping that if his majesty

approved of the match, he and the princess royal would be a very happy couple. He afterwards appeared at St. James's, and desired to be introduced in form to the object of his affection; as not having received any answer, he conceived his proposal was acceded to, upon the principle of silence giving consent. Not obtaining much attention from the people to whom he addressed himself, he set off for Kew, where he was seized and taken to Bow-street. A great number of papers were found upon him, all addressed to her *serene* highness the princess royal, in one of which he informed her, that his heart had been stolen from him three years ago, but he did not know who the robber was, till one evening being at the play, he saw the princess royal look affectionately at him as he sat in the two-shilling gallery, and that decided the question at once.

He was submitted to the examination of Dr. Munro, to decide upon his sanity, to prove which, he desired he might be allowed to read some verses, which he had on that morning written to the princess royal, and which he knew would be well received. He began,

To her royal highness the Princess Royal.

Thrice glad were I to be your willing slave,
But not the captive of the fool or knave:
With woe on woe you melt my sighing breast,
Whilst you reject your humble would be guest.

The doctor had heard enough, and the poor lunatic was sent to Bedlam, where he hoped his intended spouse, and his father-in-law would soon visit him.

His majesty at this time received a singular commission from the nabob of Arcot, in a letter addressed to his dear friend and loving brother, his Britannic majesty, telling him, that he had received intelligence of his having many great and learned men at his court, and in his empire, whose skill in physic, and whose knowledge of

the human frame, was beyond all belief and comprehension. One of these he wished might be dispensed with, and that he would send him to his court, as he found himself much worse in strength and health than heretofore; that bodily infirmities were every day increasing upon him, insomuch that in the course of last year, he had only a few children born unto him, and by the great decline of his natural strength, he began to fear himself in danger of death. It is worthy of observation, that the nabob was at this time above sixty years of age, and his Zenana was very numerous.

His majesty shewed the letter to sir George Baker, who was desired to shew it to the college of physicians, and consulting together, advised sir Paul Joddrell to accept the appointment, and he was sent accordingly.

His majesty often laughed at the nabob's commission, and the singular cause which gave rise to it, and he once added, "I suppose I shall soon receive a commission to send out an undertaker to him."

The year 1787 was closed by his majesty with several acts of munificent charity, amongst which was the donation at Christmas of ten fat oxen to be distributed amongst the poor at Windsor; but his eye was directed, not only to the sufferings of meritorious poverty within the sphere of his own immediate action, but he extended it to the alleviation of the poor Welsh curates, whose deplorable situation had been made public by a report of a committee of the house of commons. Amongst the several returns made to the house, in compliance with Mr. Gilbert's bill, was one from a poor Welsh curate, who after delineating the distresses of his poor neighbours, adds, "But their distresses cannot be greater than my own, I have a wife that is far advanced in her pregnancy; I have around me nine poor children, for whom I never

yet could procure shoe nor stocking; it is with difficulty I can supply them with food. My income is 35*l.* per annum, and for this I do the duty of four parishes."

This letter was shewn to his majesty, who ordered an immediate inquiry to be made into the moral character of the curate, and finding it unexceptionable, he not only provided for some of his family, but allowed him 50*l.* per annum out of his privy purse. It was thus that this amiable monarch alleviated the sufferings of his subjects.

About the middle of April, 1788, his majesty's person was extremely endangered by the striking of a vicious horse, in the stable at the queen's palace, where he had gone, attended by a page, who, observing him approach too near one of the cattle whose disposition was known, gave him a caution on the subject; but the king, saying that the horse would not do him any hurt, went into the stall, and was immediately hemmed in by the animal, which began to kick with great fury. The page, with considerable presence of mind, now hinted to his majesty to catch hold of the horse's head, and hold him fast; and whilst the king was thus employed with the animal, whose violence seemed to increase, the page ran for the groom who had been accustomed to attend that particular horse. The groom instantly threw a halter on its neck, and backed it out of the stall, in consequence of which the king was released from a danger which nearly threatened his life; and the page was afterwards appropriately rewarded for his zeal and activity.

In the spring of this year, the non-juring clergy of Scotland first resolved to pray for the king and royal family; a circumstance which seems to have arisen from the hopes of the restoration of the Stuart family being now at an end, as the second Pretender had recently departed

this life, whilst the sole survivor of that unhappy race was not only advanced in years, but also in holy orders as a cardinal; circumstances which precluded all hope of a continuation of the line, at least in that branch of the Catholic descendants of James I.

This loyal proceeding gave great satisfaction to the king, who was always partial to Scotland ever since his early visit to that country incoognito; nor was he unmindful of it in other circumstances, as he, in the month of July, announced his intention of giving an annual prize to the royal company of archers at Edinburgh, for the express purpose of restoring that manly and martial exercise to its original splendor: and the first prize was shot for in Bruntsfield Links by the company, on the 28th of July.

His regard for bishop Hurd, as a family preceptor, was particularly manifested this year by the present of an elegant gold medal, which he bestowed upon him with his own hand at the queen's palace, having the royal head on one side, and on the reverse, taken from a seal belonging to the bishop, a cross, with the initials L. N. R. I. on a label, a glory above, and the motto below ΕΚ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ; his majesty having seen that seal in the bishop's possession, and approved of it so highly that he had the present medal struck to be given for the annual prize dissertation on theological subjects at the university of Gottingen.

Amongst various anecdotes of his majesty at this period was one relating to the law promotion which made the present lord Eldon and sir Archibald Macdonald, solicitor and attorney generals. When these gentlemen went to kiss hands on their appointment, Macdonald, with all due courtly deference, went through the usual ceremony of being dubbed a knight; but not so the worthy chancellor, who, when the officer in waiting was directed to bring him up

to undergo the same ceremony, begged leave to decline it. This, however, his majesty did not choose to admit of, but exclaimed, when the fact was disclosed to him,—“Pho! Pho! nonsense! I will serve them both alike.” A resolution which could not be got over—Mr. Scott kneeled of course, and rose up Sir John.

In a political, and in a moral light, the health of the sovereign of a kingdom is certainly one of the first natural objects, and shortly after the rising of parliament in July, some unfavourable reports of the state of his majesty's health were in circulation, but his malady was generally believed at that time, to be the gout. It was the wish of the physicians, by a proper regimen, to fix the disease in one of the extremities, but his majesty was averse to this mode of treatment, as it might deprive him of his usual exercise. A mineral course was therefore recommended by sir George Baker, and Cheltenham was the place fixed upon for his majesty's visit. Accordingly, on the 12th of July, his majesty, accompanied by the queen and the three princesses, set off from Windsor, and after paying a short visit to lord Harcourt at Newnham, arrived at the end of their journey in the afternoon.

Their majesties took up their residence at the delightful seat of lord Faicomberg, about a quarter of a mile from the town, and their table was kept in the plainest manner; it has, however, been stated that the abstemiousness of his majesty was, at this time, so great, that he never drank more than a single glass of wine; it is, however, incorrect. The etiquette of the royal table *ex famille*, was, that bottles of every kind of wine, usually called for, were placed upon the sideboard, and although his majesty did not sit to drink after dinner, he generally, whilst at table, drank from four to six glasses. His favourite wine was claret,—the queen's

burgundy. The remainder of the wine was the perquisite of the table-decker. In respect to his dinner, his majesty generally ate heartily, but of the plainest food, preferring butchers' meat to poultry or made dishes. He never supped but *pro forma*.

His majesty had always a rooted aversion to drunkenness, nor would he retain a servant in his establishment who was addicted to that vice. The following anecdote is corroborative of the fact :

Mr. C——, was gentleman of one of the offices at St. James's, to which situation, from assistant, he had risen progressively through the kindness of his majesty. C—— at times indulged rather too freely in the juice of the grape, and this failing had been so noticed, that some good natured reporter had finished his character, by saying he was a drunkard. One day, when his majesty was absent from dinner, the queen heard one of the princesses say, it was drunken C——. Her majesty immediately desired that sentence might never be repeated, adding, C—— is an old servant, and a favourite with the king; but should his majesty know that he is a drunkard, C—— will certainly lose the king's good opinion.

His majesty's time, at Cheltenham, was occupied in drinking the waters, and in making excursions to all the places worthy notice in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire; in which he was every where hailed with the most loyal acclamations. Amongst other visits, was one to Hartelbury-castle, the episcopal palace of the good bishop Hurd, whither he was also accompanied by the duke of York, who had arrived at Cheltenham on the preceding day. The royal party, attended by a small suite, set off at such an early hour, as to travel the distance (thirty-three miles), in time for breakfast, at half-past eleven; previous to sitting down to

which, in the library, they examined that ancient residence with great precision and curiosity. After breakfast they walked into the gardens, and took several turns on the terraces, especially the green terrace in the chapel garden, as minutely detailed by the worthy prelate in his own Memoir, where they shewed themselves to an immense crowd of people, who flocked in from the vicinity; and, standing on the rising grounds of the park, saw, and were seen, to great advantage. The day being extremely bright, the bishop describes the shew as agreeable and striking; and it was much admired by the royal party, who returned to Cheltenham in the evening.

The king in his walks at Cheltenham, accompanied by the queen and the princesses, was constantly attended by crowds of people. His majesty pleasantly observed to the queen, "We must walk about for two or three days to please these good people, and then we may walk about to please ourselves." His manners were unaffected and condescending to every one. He walked about unattended by any pomp, without a single guard; more secure in the hearts of his faithful subjects, than in all the parade attendant on foreign princes.

To those about his majesty he declared more than once, at moments when the heart speaks its undisguised sentiments, "That the hours he had passed at Cheltenham, and in other parts of the country, unguarded, and in the midst of his people, had more than repaid him for all the hours of solitude he had experienced during his reign." His majesty would not allow any soldiers to do duty or reside within ten miles of the Royal Spa. The band of lord Harrington's regiment, only, were permitted to attend his majesty.

During his majesty's residence at Cheltenham, the annual meeting of the three choirs of

Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester took place, and their majesties expressed their intention of honouring those performances with their presence.

On the day previous to the commencement of the festival, the royal party left Cheltenham for Worcester, at which place they had accepted the bishop's invitation to inhabit his palace during their abode; and on the morning after their arrival, previously to visiting the cathedral, his majesty gave audience to the bishop and clergy, when Dr. Hurd delivered an address expressive of congratulations on his safe arrival, of loyal affection and duty, gratitude for regard shewn to religion and to the church, and pious wishes for his welfare; to which the king returned a most gracious answer. An address, appropriate to the occasion, was also delivered to the queen; after which the whole of the party had the honour to kiss hands.

The corporation next arrived, when their recorder, the earl of Coventry, led similar ceremonials; after which a public levee was held, when their majesties and family, suite, &c., walked through the court of the palace to the cathedral to attend divine service, at their entrance into which they were received with all clerical formalities, and conducted to a gallery fitted up for the occasion; the same ceremonial being observed on the successive days of performance.

The first morning the king was at Worcester, he went down the street *incog*. He was soon recognised, and when he came upon the bridge, he turned round to the people and said, "This, I suppose, is Worcester New-bridge." "Yes; please your majesty," said a cobbler. "Then," said he, "My boys, let's have a huzza!" His majesty set the example, and a fine shout there was. Afterwards they continued huzzaing him all the way to the palace.

The second morning the king was out at half after five. He went to colonel Digby's and colonel Gwynn's lodgings. The maid-servant was cleaning the door. The girl threw down her mop, and ran away to the bell. The king stopped her, and desired her to show him where *the fellows* slept. The girl obeyed, and his majesty went himself and called them up. The colonels leaped out of their beds as if surprised in camp by an enemy, but the king was off, and they were obliged to run over the town to find him.

Before his majesty left the city, he ordered the following princely donations:—To the charity 200*l.*; the corporation 100*l.*, to be distributed among the poor citizens; to the infirmary 50*l.*; to the workmen at the china-manufactory 20*l.*, and an order for a set of china, value 100*l.*, to be presented to the queen.

He took his leave very affectionately of the bishop, the mayor, recorder, and corporation, and expressed the highest satisfaction at his reception, and with the dutiful and respectful manner in which they had conducted themselves. On his visit to Guildhall on Friday, he was extremely affable and agreeable. After viewing every thing worthy attention, he was shewn into the grand parlour, where some excellent viands, wines, fruit, &c., were placed. The mayor being previously informed that his majesty never touched wine in the morning, humbly intreated him to take a jelly. The king replied, "I never did yet take wine in the morning; but upon this interesting and pleasing occasion, I will venture upon a glass." The mayor filled a glass of rich old mountain, and his majesty drank "Prosperity and happiness to the corporation and citizens of Worcester." This being made known to the multitude without, there was such a thundering shout, that the houses shook to their very

centres. The king then asked, if there was any thing he could confer upon the city, or upon any individual of the corporation. The recorder gave his humble thanks, and said, that they had only to supplicate, that he would condescend to sit for his picture. The royal reply was, "Certainly, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, I cannot refuse you that slender favour; but I could wish to confer something more substantial." Upon his return to the palace, he walked through the street as he came, with only one attendant, besides the lord in waiting. The crowd pressing each other to make a respectable space for him to walk at ease, and forming a phalanx on each side to prevent any rude intruder, if there had been one, from breaking in upon the passage. The scene was truly affecting, and, when taken in a political point of view, forms an interesting epocha in the history of this country. After so many centuries have passed in repeated struggles for and against liberty, and for the several successions which have taken place; for the contending and jarring principles of religion, and a standing army introduced to support authority; to behold a king of this country walking the streets as a private gentleman, with only two or three attendants, amidst thousands and tens of thousands of his subjects, without a single guard or peace-officer; happy in the love, and rejoicing in the liberty of his people, his subjects at the same instant exulting with joy and gratitude towards their sovereign, was an event in the history of modern politics, which the oldest man had never seen; nor the youngest but a few years before ever expected to see!

An attempt was made to move the *spirit* in the Quakers of Worcester to address his majesty, but these people kept in their old dull track of life, and were rather concerned that such a

thing as a royal visit had happened, to break in upon their quietude. About a dozen of the more curious among them got leave to step into the court-yard when his majesty's coach left the palace, but they stood unmoved, with their hats on their heads. The king saw that they were Quakers, and, taking off his hat, bowed to them. They, in return, moved their hands, and the eldest of them said, "*Fare thee well, friend George!*" The king and queen laughed heartily at this systematic affection.

Shortly after his majesty had left Worcester, he forwarded, by a noble lord residing in that neighbourhood, the sum of 300*l.*, not only for the relief of debtors, but that such of the criminals whose conduct since commitment was meritorious, should share the gift; and his majesty farther desired, that if any circumstances appeared which rendered any of them fit objects of royal clemency, it might be represented to him.

But perhaps the most remarkable incident attending this royal visit has still to be related. The only person who, by his majesty's desire, accompanied him, as conductor through the town, was the *great grandson of the Protector, Cromwell*. The king appeared to converse with him with great affability and condescension. The singularity of the circumstance attracted general notice.

It may not be unworthy of notice how much persons of the highest distinction have it in their power to attach their inferiors to them, by an apparently trivial attention;—a proof of which presents itself to us in the subjoined letter:

Dear Sir—It were almost a sacrilegious act to withhold any one circumstance which can illustrate the character of our dear departed king.—Your knowledge of me will induce you, I am sure, to guarantee to your readers the truth of whatever I may relate.

In 1788, when his majesty visited Worcester, I was a very little boy, residing there. A better feeling, perhaps, than curiosity made me follow him about the city through his walks;—for the whole time of the royal visit was one holiday and jubilee. His majesty was accompanied by a great crowd, but not any guards: I was immediately at his side, with my eyes never off his face. At this instant the good old monarch is before me. I pressed much too near; and one of the attendants mentioned to put me aside. The king laid his hand on my head, and said, in the kindest voice I ever heard, "Let him alone; he will be one of my defenders by and by."

I really believe, sir, that no small portion of my personal loyalty arose from this circumstance, and grew up with my years;—if it did, no good heart will think the worse of it.

The royal party returned to Cheltenham in the month of August, where they remained until the 15th, when they set off for Windsor.

Superstition, which had often recurred to the year 1588, when the Popish Conspiracy as it is called, against the country was defeated; and to the year 1688, which was the era of our glorious revolution, could not but look forward with some kind of expectation, that the close of another century of years would unfold some event of a very uncommon nature, and that the year 1788 would be distinguished by some circumstance of great national moment. Such an expectation, however frivolous in itself was realized, and a crisis arrived of the most immediate importance to the country.

States possess the same imperfect nature as the individuals which compose them. Infancy, maturity, and decline, have marked the course of ancient empires, and the governments of the present era will furnish examples to succeeding ages. Perfection is not the lot of sublunary nature—decay waits upon strength; wisdom and virtue are in continual contest with vice and folly; and the most prosperous state can never be removed from the vigilance

of calamity. We may apply these observations to ourselves, to our race of every age, and to every kingdom, from the beginning of the world. We have only to trace a few years past, for the illustration of these truths in the history of our country. From a state of great national depression, in the war antecedent to the American, we were suddenly raised to unexampled greatness by the vast genius of one man, who seemed to possess the power of commanding victory, and giving stability to fortune; but the peace of lord Bute followed the administration of the illustrious Chatham, and, to our great though inadequate prosperity succeeded the American rebellion, and with it all its afflicting concomitants. Great Britain, however, with all its losses, oppressions, and dismemberments, still possessed the energies of a rich, a brave, and a free people; and, they were so directed and employed by Chatham's great descendant, as to restore the country to its former rank among the nations of Europe, to enable it to bear with cheerfulness its heavy burthens, and to promise an alleviation of them. The British commerce flourished, and was extending itself under various new and wise arrangements—wealth flowed into the country from every quarter of the globe—war kept itself at a distance from us; and had it approached, we were in a condition to command it into peace. The affairs of domestic government were conducted with wisdom, and the party in opposition, though composed of great abilities and personal influence, were just sufficient and no more, to form such a check as every reflecting man would wish that every administration should experience.

At such a period, what reason was there to justify an apprehension of any event that might blast the exulting hopes of a contented people? Nevertheless, a calamity of the most affecting,

and unusual nature was at hand to check the current of public felicity. The king was smitten by the hand of Heaven, and by the stroke was deprived of the capacity to govern his kingdoms. The alarm on this occasion cannot be easily described, and it may be sufficient to observe, that it was such as became the feelings of a generous, a humane, and a loyal people.

On his majesty's return from Cheltenham to the neighbourhood of the metropolis, the public had every reason to hope that the royal excursion had been attended with the best effects. About the middle of the month of October, however, some unpleasant symptoms appeared in his majesty's constitution, which continued, with some little temporary abatement, to increase in such a manner, as in the beginning of November to occasion very serious public alarms concerning his life: indeed, such was the nature of his disorder, as to require every precaution to keep it from being immediately known; and, the evident appearance of secrecy with respect to the royal malady, gave the public every reason to fear that it would deprive them of their sovereign.

On Monday, the 3d of November, 1788, the king's disorder excited great alarm, and two other physicians were summoned to Windsor, to the assistance of sir George Baker, who, till then, had attended alone. On Tuesday the bad symptoms gathered strength; on Wednesday and Thursday apprehensions increased; and on Friday his majesty was thought in imminent danger. On Saturday, Dr. Warren, at the instance of the prince of Wales, saw the royal patient for the first time. This gentleman, either possessed of more acute discernment, or acting under less constraint than his brethren, hesitated not to communicate to the queen, that the disorder under which the king laboured, was an

absolute mania, distinct from, and wholly unconnected with, fever.

On Sunday, his majesty was thought to be actually expiring. After long and violent efforts, nature seemed exhausted, and he remained two hours senseless and motionless, with a pulsation hardly perceptible. Recovering by degrees from this torpor, he became capable of taking some refreshment.

The distress of the queen and the princesses was beyond description. The prince of Wales and the duke of York were deeply affected. The former wept abundantly, when the true nature of the malady was communicated to him. Both the princes remained at Windsor, and were unremitting in their endeavours to support the queen and to console the princesses.

On the 9th of November, which was lord-mayor's day, the belief was universal throughout the metropolis, that his majesty was no more, and that the awful event was withheld from publication, till the mayor of London was sworn into his office. But after a few days of anxious suspense, the public affliction fancied a new and unexpected object. It appeared that the king's malady did not endanger his life, but had invaded his reason, and rendered him incapable of governing his kingdom. In such an affecting situation, which this country had never before experienced, the people naturally looked with the most anxious expectation to the approaching meeting of parliament, for the adoption of such measures as the wisdom of the two remaining branches of the legislature might suggest to supply the melancholy deprivation of the executive power.

In the midst of its affliction for the lamentable situation of its sovereign, the nation appeared to find somewhat of a melancholy

consolation, THE KING LIVED, and the public examination of royal and consulting physicians before the privy council, encouraged the people to hope that he would gain the perfect use of his reason, and be restored to all his former capacity to govern his kingdoms. But, however probable a cure might be, the utmost sagacity and experience of physio, did not attempt to decide upon the period of restoration; it was, therefore, most essentially necessary, that some plan should be adopted to supply the immediate deficiency in the executive government of the country; and though a regency was resorted to as the best and only means to be employed on the sad occasion, both by the servants of the afflicted king, and the party which opposed them, the manner of forming and appointing it, occasioned that violence of political contention, with which this era was so particularly disfigured.

On November the 12th. The account sent to St. James's, that the king had slept from six to nine o'clock the preceding night, but that there was no abatement of his complaint, afforded no consolation to those, who were interested for his essential welfare. Orders were sent to the secretary of state's office, that it should be notified to foreign courts, that no apprehensions were entertained of immediate danger of the king's life.

13th. At the usual hour, half-past eleven, advice was received at St. James's, that the king remained as before. Two hours after, a letter was received by the lord in waiting, which brought intelligence that the king had shewn tokens of recollection, which suggested some hopes, although his majesty immediately relapsed into his former incoherence.

A palsy upon the brain was said to be the cause of a deplorable malady, which no medical skill could reach; and an opinion universally

prevailed, that it would be necessary immediately to form a regency. Opposition asserted that the prince's majority entitled him to undivided power; but Mr. Pitt's partisans reprobated the idea, and strenuously maintained the queen's superior pretensions.

14th. Circular letters were sent to members of parliament, stating, that the present unhappy situation of the king making it improbable that his majesty's commands could be received for the further prorogation of parliament, it must meet on the 20th instant, when attendance was earnestly solicited.

15th. It had been hoped that lucid intervals and better prospects might have enabled the king to prorogue parliament, and would have justified the measure. Early in the morning of this day, the chancellor, actuated by this hope, went to Windsor; but the sad situation in which he found the king, suggested only the necessity of hastening the distribution of notices, which had been delayed to the latest moment.

Sunday, the 16th, expectation was kept upon the rack at St. James's, till half-past two o'clock. Bad presages drawn from the delay were confirmed by the event. "Notwithstanding six hour's sleep, the king is not better to-day," was the affecting report. It appeared that the messenger had been detained beyond the usual hour, in the hope that some favourable symptom might authorize a different one.

Opposition now forcibly felt the misfortune of Mr. Fox's absence. His powerful and extensive talents qualifying him alike to guide in council, and to lead in debate, his return was anxiously desired. Increasing bad symptoms in his majesty, augmented their impatience for accounts from the messenger, who had, upon the first idea of his danger, been despatched to the continent, in quest of Mr. Fox. His acknowledged honour, as well as his transcendent

abilities, made every member of the party solicitous that he should have frequent access to, and obtain the confidence of the prince; to whom they now looked up as to the source of power and honours.

Those who enjoyed the sweets of subsisting arrangements, and trembled at the thoughts of change, were inclined sanguinely to hope what they anxiously wished. They firmly believed that the derangement of the king's intellects would be but temporary, and that repose and method would not fail to effect his restoration. But, amongst those, over whose hopes and fears interest had no sway, few were found who did not draw the most afflicting conclusions, from all the circumstances they were acquainted with. That the approach of the terrible malady had been gradual and regular, that sound sleep, good appetite, and total absence of fever, had produced no diminution of it, appeared to them a formidable basis for the worst apprehensions.

The number of those who watched over his majesty was now increased. A rash attempt created the necessity. With the extraordinary cunning that is often found to accompany intellectual maladies, his majesty, one night, feigning to sleep, even to snore, threw the apothecary, who alone watched by him, off his guard, and hastened to a window of his apartment, with a precipitancy which, while it bespoke the worst of purposes, happily prevented its perpetration, by the alarm it spread.

The queen and the royal children now no longer saw his majesty. Interviews which produced no effect upon him, but which exquisitely tortured their feelings, were judged best to be discontinued.

It was hoped that the frequent interviews which the prince was said to have with Mr. Pitt, at Windsor, might soften the dislike his royal highness made no secret of entertaining

for that minister. The influence of the queen, who was known to esteem him, seconding the frame of mind which the calamitous situation of his royal father was likely to produce, might it was hoped, lessen the acrimony of the prince's feelings towards Mr. Pitt, and some of his adherents. It was also hoped, by the candid and moderate, that a calamity like the present might have had the effect of reconciling all parties; and that, attention to the public good, absorbing every selfish consideration, might have produced union, and prevented that contention, which must aggravate the material difficulties which embarrass government. But these persons, little susceptible themselves of the impulse of avarice and ambition, were incompetent judges of their influence upon minds in which they had long predominated. It was, however, some satisfaction to persons of this description to know, that the prince had sent for the chancellor, (Thurlow,) and receiving him with the marks of the highest consideration, had said to him, "I have desired your lordship's attendance, not only as my father's friend, but as my own friend, and I beseech you, my lord, to give me your counsel on this unhappy occasion. I have the utmost confidence in your judgment, and shall have the utmost satisfaction in acting by it."

The habitual piety observable in the king's life, did not forsake him in his calamitous situation. On Sunday the 16th, his majesty desired to have prayers read: and on Mr. M—'s approach, seeing him confuse^d embarrassed, perhaps, from emotions of sensibility, he rose from his seat, and presenting a book of prayer, pointed to several which he had marked, and desired these might be read. His majesty accompanied the chaplain with much recollection; but, soon after, his wanderings returned, and great disturbance of mind ensued. In the middle of the night, his majesty rose suddenly

from his bed, and rushed into the anti-chamber. The equerry in waiting there earnestly besought him to return; which the king absolutely refused to do, saying, "What right have you to command me? I know who you are. You are my servant." Colonel Gwynne, with a happy presence of mind, replied, "Sir, it is not so now. I am now your master; and you must and shall return." The king replied not; but turning away, shed tears, and complied.

In the king's calmer moments, his principal occupation was writing; and the subject, generally, despatches to foreign courts. These, founded upon imaginary causes, were said to be written with great consistency and uncommon eloquence. At some periods, all gracious, condescending, and munificent, his majesty lavished honours upon all who opposed him; elevating to the highest dignities, pages, gentlemen of the bedchamber, or any occasional attendant.

To these gentler workings of a disordered mind, often succeeded sad transports of vehemence and agitation, which were expressed in tones so ungoverned, as sometimes to reach beyond the walls of the royal apartment. Exhausted nature would then feel a pause; during which, it was not uncommon for his majesty to express a consciousness of his unhappy state, and a despair of ever being relieved from it.

The sleep which succeeded these varied agitations of mind and person, was often sound and long; but never did the monarch awake from them in a composed state of mind. The refreshment of the body seemed only to add strength to the mental malady. From this circumstance, the most melancholy inferences were drawn; and, in confirmation of them, it was said, that a brother of the —'s mother had terminated his existence under a total privation of the first of blessings. Music, which

had formerly been found peculiarly soothing to the royal mind, now served only to excite impatience. In the last fortnight, his majesty had resisted all solicitations to be shaved. His malady, and his exertions, had so emaciated him, that it was judged expedient to remove every mirror, lest the reflection of his own figure should affect him too sensibly.

On Thursday, 20th day of November, the parliament met according to the last prorogation, and when the chancellor of the exchequer had entered the house, the speaker rose at the table, and desired to know, "as no new commission had been issued for the further prorogation of parliament, whether it was the pleasure of the house that he should take the chair;" which being made known by a general assent of the house, the speaker took his seat. After some necessary formalities, Mr. Chancellor Pitt rose, and observed that a most calamitous circumstance had occurred, which rendered the meeting of that house indispensably necessary, without the usual and previous notice. The circumstance to which he alluded, was the melancholy state of the king's health, which had made it impossible for his majesty's servants to receive any commands from him. He added, that the few authorities which existed, and which were at all similar in their application to the present singular situation of affairs had been consulted; but as they did not point out the possibility of issuing a new commission for the further prorogation of parliament, nor enable them to open the session in the usual form, he trusted that he spoke the opinion of every one, who heard him, when he suggested that it would be highly improper for the house to proceed to the discussion of any public business whatever, and that it was absolutely necessary for them to adjourn; he therefore proposed to make an adjournment to that day

fortnight; and, as at that time, if the prayers and wishes of the nation should be disappointed by a continuance of his majesty's illness, they must proceed to consider what would be necessary to be done, and what measures ought to be adopted in the important crisis. He should also move for a call of the house, on that day fortnight; and that the call might be rendered as effectual as possible, he should accompany his last motion with another, to direct the speaker to write circular letters in the most serious and solemn manner, requiring the attendance of every member on that day fortnight. The chancellor of the exchequer therefore moved,

1. That the house at its rising, do adjourn to that day fortnight.

2. That the house be called over on Thursday, the 4th of December.

That the speaker be directed to send circular letters, requiring the attendance of every member on that day; all which motions were carried, *nemine contradicente*.

The accounts transmitted to St. James's on the 22d, and 23d, varied little. Quiet, or disturbed sleep, made the only difference; and the continuance of fever was always announced. The account of the 24th said, his majesty had had a restless night, and was not better.

November 27th. An observable change appeared in the physicians' note of this day:—"His majesty has had sufficient sleep, but does not appear to be relieved by it." This seemed a prelude to a public avowal of the deplorable malady; and inspired a belief, that those who were most unwilling to admit the improbability of recovery, had now a melancholy conviction forced upon them of the permanency of the disorder.

In the violent paroxysms of his majesty's disorder, he continually raved about the queen;

sometimes loading her with reproaches, and uttering threats against her; at others, desiring her presence, with expressions of passionate regard.

One day, tired of vainly soliciting to see the queen, his majesty desired to have her picture. He addressed it with great calmness and recollection, in these words:—"We have been married twenty-eight years, and never have we been separated a day till now; and now you abandon me in my misfortunes." It being deemed improper to hazard the queen's having an interview with his majesty, a lady whom he used particularly to esteem and value, begged to be permitted to see him, in the hope of exciting some salutary feeling in the royal mind. The event did not answer the benevolent intention; but too well confirmed the expediency of the queen's remaining at a distance.

Another day, his majesty desired to have 400*l.* from his privy purse. He divided it into different sums, wrapping them up in separate papers, upon which he wrote the names of persons to whom he had been accustomed to make monthly payments, with perfect accuracy and precision. His majesty then wrote down the different sums, with the names annexed, cast up the whole, as he formerly used to do, and ordered the money to be paid immediately, it being then due.

After this instance of perfect recollection, his majesty began to deplore the unhappy situation of London; which, he said, had been under water a fortnight. His attendants, who never directly contradicted any assertion, assured his majesty that they had received no account of such an event, though they had daily communications with persons from town. His majesty very calmly replied, that they either sought to deceive him, or were themselves not

well informed. He then proceeded to explain, with the same composure, that the water was making gradual advances; and that, in one week more, it would reach the queen's house. His majesty expressed great unwillingness that a valuable manuscript, the precise situation of which he described, should suffer; and declared an intention of going, on the ensuing Monday, to rescue it from the approaching evil. This mixture of distraction and reason giving way to absolute alienation, his majesty expressed his sorrow that lord T—— was not present, he having prepared every thing for creating him a duke.

The temper of the king's mind was, at this period, free from violence. He did not now exhibit the terrible transports that were frequent during the first fortnight of confinement.

November 27. The chancellor, Mr. Pitt, lord Stafford, and the other members of the cabinet council, waited upon the prince of Wales at Windsor, and proceeded to examine the king's physicians, and also Dr. Addington, who had visited his majesty three or four times previous to this inquiry. The four attending physicians having declared his majesty's malady to be of a species that had not been the subject of their researches, this gentleman, at Mr. Pitt's particular desire, had been called in. It was known, that thirty years had elapsed since Dr. Addington had abandoned the practice of that branch of the medical art now required, and it was more than ten years since he had wholly withdrawn from business.

The result of this examination was a determination to issue summonses to every member in the list of privy councillors to attend a general meeting on the 3d of December, when a further inquiry respecting medical opinions was intended to be made. It was further resolved, that the king should be removed, as

soon as possible, from Windsor to Kew. The considerable diminution of the inconvenient distance from the capital, and the means of taking exercise without being exposed to observation, were great and solid reasons for the change of situation.

Summonses were also issued to the members of the house of commons, to meet at the Cockpit in the evening of the 3d of December; and it was expected that some measures would speedily be adopted for supplying the essential chasm which the king's deplorable malady had occasioned in the state.

Consultations were every day held by ministry; and a daily assembly of opposition members took place at Burlington-house. The strength of parliamentary interest was anxiously calculated at both. The wish of opposition was, that the prince might be sole regent, and that he might be invested with every kingly power and function; his royal father being by them considered as virtually defunct.

The partisans of Mr. Pitt advanced, that, in the present case, when the disorder probably was but temporary, arrangements ought to be the same as would have taken place, had his majesty made an excursion, for a limited time, to his foreign dominions. They contended, that, as in that case, he certainly would have given the queen supreme power, so, in the present situation, it ought to be vested in her.

The queen, wholly occupied at this time, by solicitude for the health and restoration of her august consort, resisted every attempt to engage her in political contests. She positively declared, that the only stipulation she wished to make, was, for permission to watch over his majesty's safety. The prince's attention to his royal mother and sisters was unremitting; and reciprocal regard and mutual confidence fur-

nished the best consolation to each under the common calamity.

The king expressed great unwillingness to remove from Windsor. But, on Saturday the 29th of November, the point was happily accomplished. The queen wrote a letter to his majesty, entreating him to go to Kew; and and some of his attendants gave an unauthorized assurance, that he would there be allowed to see the queen. It was not, however, till his majesty had been shewn the carriages which conveyed the queen and the princesses from Windsor, that he consented to leave it. His impatience then became extreme, and his agitation so great, that it was some time doubtful whether the wished removal would be practicable. Something like tranquillity succeeding, his majesty was placed in the carriage, accompanied in it by general Harcourt, and colonels Goldsworthy and Gwynne. The motion seemed to compose his mind, and the journey was happily performed.

The sufferings of the queen and the princesses, on this trying occasion, cannot be described. Uncertain whether the king would follow, yet, satisfied that their departure was the only possible means of inducing his majesty to remove, they left Windsor, doubtful whether they were not performing an unavailing journey, and their minds tortured with solicitude for what might occur during a cruel interval. If any thing could add to feelings thus acute, it must have been the profound, respectful, silent woe manifested by every individual of an immense crowd assembled to behold the sad procession.

Either disappointment of the expectation his majesty had entertained of seeing the queen on his arrival at Kew, or irritation from exercise long discontinued, produced hurtful effects upon the royal mind, and the succeeding night was passed in a deplorable manner.

December 3d. The examination of the physicians before the privy council, who, on this important occasion, assembled to the extraordinary number of —, ascertaining the nature of the king's malady, and his incapacity to exercise his royal functions, a regency was deemed necessary to supply the deficiency. The result was communicated to the prince; who waited upon the queen to apprize her of it, and to declare his intention to assert those pretensions which his situation and age gave him. His royal highness added, that if, as he expected, he should be declared sole regent, he should hope her majesty would take upon herself the sole and absolute care of the king. Her majesty, at this time, entertained no other wish, and unequivocally professed her determination to take no part in politics.

His royal highness then proceeded to the duke of Portland, and embracing him most cordially, " begged that every unpleasant circumstance that had passed between them might be buried in oblivion; assuring his grace, that he had the highest regard for him, and that he should be happy to receive his assistance, and to depend upon his wisdom in this moment of calamity."

The genuine urbanity of the duke's mind, rendered this concession ample atonement. His grace promised to devote himself to the prince's service; and prepared to combat the difficulties of arrangements with a zeal inspired rather by the testimony of the prince's confidence, and the desire to serve dependent friends, than by any immediate wish for power to himself: that he had exercised, heretofore, long enough to reach the alley that larks under its enchanting surface; and the now opulent state of his fortunes, made emoluments of little account in his scheme of happiness.

On the 4th of December, the house met pur-

suant to their adjournment from the 20th of the former month, and the speaker having taken the chair, Mr. Chancellor Pitt prefaced the business of the day, by observing that the the same unhappy cause which prevented the exercise of public business at their last meeting, still existed, but that this matter should appear in the fullest manner to the house, and that every information respecting his majesty's present state might be given with all becoming authenticity; he should move for the report of the examination of the physicians attending his majesty to be read.

This report was made by the privy council, who had met on the preceding day to examine the royal physicians, the substance of which was as follows:

Dr. Warren called in, and examined upon oath.

Q. Do you think his majesty's disorder to be such as incapacitates him from meeting his parliament in the usual manner, and transacting the public business of the nation?

A. I think his majesty's disorder denies him the capacity of transacting any public business.

Q. Do you think his majesty's disorder a curable or incurable malady?

A. I think the disorder is a curable malady.

Q. Upon what do you ground your opinion?

A. Upon experience in some instances—upon the reports of physical men in others. Many persons in his majesty's present state have recovered.

Q. Can you take upon you to say in what time the malady may be removed.

A. That is impossible for me to ascertain.

Sir George Baker, examined upon oath.

His evidence was pretty nearly the same as Dr. Warren's, with the addition, that he took upon him to say, that the disorder was curable, from a variety of instances, in which persons labouring under a similar malady were restored to their former health, and that it was his opinion, there was a probability of his majesty being relieved, and

reinstated in a situation of mind and body, equal to what he enjoyed before he was visited by his present illness.

Sir Lucas Pepys examined upon oath.

His opinion in respect to the disease being curable confirmed that of the two gentlemen whose examination preceded him. He said, that the malady not being hereditary, made it the more easy to be removed; and that, from what he had known in his own practice, and from persons attending different hospitals, there was every reason to believe that his majesty's disorder would be removed; but as to the time, he could not take upon him to ascertain; it might be weeks or months.

Dr. Reynolds examined upon oath.

The doctor coincided in opinion that the disorder was curable, and that there were variety of instances to warrant the justice of that opinion. Every physical man, he said, had in his practice met with one or more of those cases, and they all tended to verify the fact of such a malady being removable.

Dr. Addington examined upon oath.

Q. Do you think that his majesty's present disorder incapacitates him for public business?

A. I do.

Q. Can you take upon you to say the disorder is of such a nature, that a cure may be perfected?

A. I can affirm that to be my opinion.

Q. On what do you ground that opinion?

A. On similar cases, which have come within my own knowledge. I have known many persons labouring under the same distemper, and in a worse state, perfectly cured; and I have every reason to expect such will in time be his majesty's relief?

Q. In what time do you suppose this malady may be removed?

A. I cannot take upon me precisely to determine—it may be in a week—or in a month.—Some have not been relieved in less than a year. This I can aver, that finding persons in the neighbourhood of Reading much addicted to that unhappy disorder, I built a house there, and at times have had eight or ten under my care, all of whom were perfectly cured within the year. They might indeed have been ill perhaps many months before they were sent to me, but this I can aver upon oath, I never

knew an instance during my practice, wherein a patient afflicted with that kind of malady under which his majesty labours, and whom I deemed curable, that was not restored perfectly to his former state of health, and as capable as ever of transacting business; and, on the contrary, those that I deemed *incurable*, never did recover.

To each gentleman the leading question was, Whether the king was capable of transacting business?—and to which they respectively answered—*That he was not*.

Mr. Pitt moved that the report of the privy-council should, on the Monday following, be taken into consideration; but Mr. Viner suggested a doubt, whether a further examination of the physicians might not be proper: in this opinion he was supported by Mr. Fox; and the minister, after some hesitation, acceded; and a committee of twenty-one members was appointed by each house of parliament, for that purpose, on the 8th.

The great advantage which a hereditary monarchy possesses over every other form of government is, that a regular succession being established in the supreme magistracy, the possibility of an *interregnum*, and of those dangerous and often fatal contests, that state of anarchy and violence, to which those governments are necessarily exposed, where the order of precedence is not so strictly defined, are completely avoided. This advantage is such as to counterbalance, in the opinion of the best-informed politicians, some inevitable inconveniences, which every candid mind must allow to be attached to this arrangement. But it is to be lamented, that the British constitution is defective in this instance; that no provision is made in the case of the temporary incapacity of the sovereign, for the exercise of those offices and functions so necessary to the welfare of the nation; nor any rules or principles prescribed, with respect to the person in whom the execu-

tive government shall be vested during the suspension of the regal authority. Of this deficiency Mr. Pitt was enabled to avail himself on the present occasion; and as one certain advantage would be the protraction of a business which must be fatal to his continuance in office, he moved, on the 10th of December, the day when the report of the committee was received, for another committee to inspect the journals for precedents of such proceedings as had been adopted in former instances, when the sovereign authority was suspended by sickness, infirmity, or any other cause. The motion was no sooner made, than it was opposed by Mr. Fox, who objected to it as only formed for the purpose of delay. He was convinced, upon the maturest consideration, of the principles and practice of the constitution and the analogy of the law of the land, that whenever the sovereign, from infancy, sickness, or any other cause, was incapable of exercising the functions of his high office, the heir apparent, if of full age and capacity, had as indisputable a claim to the exercise of the executive authority, in the name and behalf of the sovereign, during his incapacity, as in the case of his natural demise.

It may well be supposed that Mr. Pitt, who had so frequently been accused of pleading the cause of prerogative, would scarcely omit so favourable an opportunity of affecting democratic sentiments, as the declaration of his great antagonist afforded. He rose with apparent warmth, and declared that the assertion which had been made by Mr. Fox, was little short of treason against the constitution; and pledged himself to prove, that the heir apparent, in the instances in question, had no more right to the exercise of the executive power, than any other subject; and that it belonged entirely to the two remaining branches of the

constitution, in behalf of the people, to make such a provision for supplying the temporary deficiency, as they might think proper.

Mr. Burke supported the opinion of Mr. Fox, by many sarcastical observations. He represented Mr. Pitt as the competitor of the prince of Wales; and added, that if he was to become an elector for the regency, as undoubtedly every member of that house must be, if the doctrines which had just been advanced were true, he should esteem it his duty to give his vote for the prince of Wales, and not for the right honourable gentleman. Mr. Pitt's motion was however voted by a large majority.

The assertion of Mr. Fox, on this occasion, was considered by some persons as a rash and unguarded expression, advanced in the warmth of debate, and on the urgency of the occasion, and which, having once unfortunately pronounced, he was afterwards obliged to defend, to preserve an appearance of consistency in his political conduct. The assertion of Mr. Fox was, however, not made without due deliberation; nor was the opposition of Mr. Pitt a sudden blaze of zeal for the constitutional rights of the people, nor did he oppose the doctrine from a general principle of democracy. Both of these statesmen had their particular and specific object. It was the design of Mr. Pitt, who was fortunate at the moment in having a parliament well disposed to his views, to place the authority of the regent under such strict and embarrassing limitations, as in all probability must have rendered the dismissal of himself and his colleagues a matter of extreme difficulty to the new government, and must at least facilitate their return to power; and as Mr. Fox was, probably, not unapprized of the intentions of the minister, by asserting strongly the unqualified succession of the prince of Wales, there is reason to suppose that he flat-

tered himself with the hope of defeating the project, and, by laying a strong foundation, expected in some degree to fortify those arguments which he might find it necessary to urge against that restricted exercise of the executive power, which must have rendered the government of the prince weak, if not impermanent.

Whatever has the appearance of supporting the democratic branch of the constitution against the claims of prerogative, is always popular, but it is not always the most favourable to liberty. To superficial observers, it seems an extension of the people's rights; but it is only by recurring to the first principles of government, and of the constitution, that its real tendency can be ascertained. To invest the houses of parliament with the power of regulating the executive department of government, whenever the usual succession, from accidental causes, suffers any interruption, may appear, at first view, only consistent with those enlarged principles of liberty on which the basis of all legitimate government ought to be constructed; but it should not be forgotten, that the same reasoning might be extended to the succession in general; and our own experience has proved, that the safest mode of providing for the executive department of government, is by the direct hereditary course; and the experience of every other nation, where an elective sovereignty is established, has abundantly shewn the pernicious effects which result from so indefinite and capricious an institution.

If hereditary monarchy, therefore, is found salutary in the general, why should not the institution extend to every particular case? The name or title of the supreme magistrate, is of little importance, provided he governs according to established laws, the object of which is the welfare of the people. If further the executive department can be conducted under

closer restrictions than are at present established; will it not follow, that the restrictions should be made permanent, and bind the sovereign as well as the regent? The sole object of government is the welfare and protection of the community; it is only a matter of dispute, with what prerogatives and powers it is necessary to invest the first officer of the state, in order to enable him to fulfil the functions of his important station, and to carry on, without vexatious interruption, the proper business of the nation. But if certain privileges and prerogatives are necessary in the one case, are they not equally so in the other? The sovereign authority is not a property, but an office; to execute that office, certain powers are necessary; and whoever exercises it, and under whatever name he acts, he ought to be possessed of those necessary powers; and no man, under any title or denomination, ought to be invested with more than are necessary. Such appears to be the only clear and obvious point of view in which the question of the regency can be placed; and from this view, few men of reflexion will doubt, that for the sake of public tranquillity, and to frustrate the machinations of faction, the same rule of succession ought to be established as in the case of the demise of the crown; and the regent ought to be invested with all the necessary authorities and powers for the competent transacting of the business of the state.

In this view, the only circumstance that can create a difference between the regular succession to the sovereignty, and that to the regency, and the only point in the latter case to be secured is, that the legal possessor shall not be excluded from a resumption of his proper authority, whenever the existing impediment shall be removed. For this, in the instance in question, the faith, integrity, and character of

the two other branches of the legislature, would have been solemnly pledged; on these, in every event, the matter must have ultimately depended; and these appear to have been sufficient, without any further provision.

This short statement will serve, in some measure, to illustrate the different opinions supported on this subject by Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt; the former asserted that the prince of Wales had an *absolute right* to succeed to the regency, while the latter admitted only that he had an *irresistible claim*: and from what has been remarked on the particular views of each of these great parliamentary leaders, the difference was more than verbal. It will serve, at the same time, to supersede the necessity of entering into a detail of the long and generally uninteresting parliamentary debates, which succeeded in both houses. If the prince and his party had been more popular, his claim, as of right, to the regency, would probably have been received with more complacency; but as it was evident, from the complexion of both houses, that such a claim would have been resisted to the utmost, it was thought advisable not to bring the subject to a formal decision; and on the 15th of December, the duke of York, in the name of his royal highness, waved the question of right, and deprecated the proceeding to a decision on an abstract political question, while the different parties were substantially agreed. He was followed to the same effect by the duke of Gloucester; but so confident were the ministers in their success, that, on the succeeding day, Mr. Pitt moved three resolutions, the object of which was to declare, that his majesty, being prevented by indisposition from attending to public business, "It was the right and duty of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons of Great Britain, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the

personal exercise of the royal authority." The motions were opposed chiefly upon the principles which have been already stated. Mr. Fox observed upon the proceedings, that if a foreigner was to inquire, whether the monarchy of Great Britain was hereditary or elective, the obvious answer in consequence of what had now passed, must be—"That when the king is in good health, the monarchy is hereditary; but when he is ill, and incapable of exercising the sovereign authority, it is elective."

When the end desired has not been obtained, it is common to condemn the means that have been employed. The king's malady not having abated during the restraints imposed at Windsor, it was judged that the indulgence of a degree of liberty might have produced salutary effects. On his majesty's removal to Kew, his range was enlarged; and, instead of several persons watching over him, a single page only remained to receive his commands. Two equerries only waited in the anti-chamber; and the assistance which contingencies might make necessary, was placed out of sight.

After the second day of his majesty's removal, longer intervals and less violent paroxysms suggested the flattering hope, that change of system had produced beneficial effects; but, on the Thursday, the worst symptoms re-appeared. The night was restless, and the two succeeding days destroyed the dawning hope.

Dr. Willis, who had been sent for from Lincolnshire, first saw his majesty on Friday the 5th. He scrupled not to blame the delay in calling in practitioners peculiarly devoted to the study of his majesty's complaint, and he highly condemned the decree of liberty allowed the royal patient. He encouraged the queen to think that a cure was not improbable; and he represented that it might the rather be expected, as the means peculiarly adapted to the

disorder still remained untried. He begged, if his attendance should be commanded, that he might be permitted to act without control. He said, that there was but one method in that complaint, by which the lowest and the highest person could be treated with effect, and that his reputation was too much concerned in the event for him to attempt any thing, if he might not be invested with unlimited powers.

It may be conceived with what anguish her majesty yielded to this requisition. But her conviction of its propriety fortified the magnanimity that prefers the performance of duties to the indulgence of feelings. It was known to her, that the first principle of Dr. Willis's practice is to make himself formidable, to inspire awe. In these terrible maladies, those who superintend the unhappy patients, must so subjugate their will, that no idea of resistance to their commands can have place in their minds. It was but too obvious, that the long and habitual exercise of high command must increase the difficulty of accomplishing this in the present instance; and an apprehension of the necessity of peculiar rigour, gave all possible aggravation to the queen's distress.

A council was held at Mr. Pitt's, on Sunday the 7th, at noon. Upon its rising, a messenger was despatched to Kew, with a letter to the queen. At nine o'clock in the evening of the same day, the prince of Wales received a letter from her majesty, in which were strongly expressed sentiments of that prudence, good sense, and maternal and conjugal affection, by which her majesty's conduct had ever been distinguished. Her majesty informed the prince, that she had been applied to, and urged, to take a share in the regency, as the only means of securing to herself a certainty of preserving the care of the king's person. But her majesty added, "She authorized his royal highness to

declare, that she would on no account take any share in the political affairs of this kingdom; it being her determination to remain at Kew, or wherever else his majesty might be, and to devote herself wholly to him, as his friend and companion."

His royal highness's answer, which was immediately returned, contained the most dutiful and tender professions. It concluded with the assurance, that, "If her majesty's taking any share in the government of this country, could give her any additional care or authority over his royal father's person, he should be the first to propose its being conferred; but her majesty being the only person upon whom such a trust ought to devolve, she might assure herself, that she should be considered as his majesty's sole guardian, as long as the unhappy malady should continue."

In this important and interesting part of our history, it is considered requisite to enter into a concise statement of the views of the opposing parties, as they presented a phenomenon in the political hemisphere of this country, which has never been paralleled.

The minister, at this extraordinary period, possessed in the highest degree, the confidence of the nation. The public prepossession to the name he bore, was grown into great popular regard, from his having conducted himself, according to the general opinion, in a manner that added new honours to it. The nation was recovering, under his administration, from the ruinous consequences of the American war; the measures of government were almost universally thought to be framed with wisdom, and the energies of it employed with spirit, and with judgment;—while the honour, the dignity, and resolution with which our court acted towards foreign powers, had replaced Great Britain in the predominant situation

which she formerly possessed in the eyes of Europe. The party in opposition, were, at this time, very low in the public opinion, and in their own. They certainly did not feel any the least probability of an immediate return to power, nor could the most penetrating spirit among them, discover any object floating in the political atmosphere, which might yield them advantage. During the preceding winter, the more active leaders of the band had found employment for their superior talents and eloquence, in the prosecution of Mr. Hastings; and, at the moment, when the king's illness gave new life to their hopes, they were engaged in pursuits which had no connexion with the government of an empire.—Mr. Fox, who was the soul of the party, and without whose abilities, it could not have hung together for a day, was enjoying the pleasures of foreign travel, from which he was recalled in the utmost haste, to give life and energy to the political cohort that waited to be directed by him. But neither the superior talents of that gentleman, nor all the weight of the houses of Norfolk, Cavendish, and Russell, which supported him, could have elevated the party to a situation that would have qualified them to have made a plausible struggle for power, they had not been assured of the decided favour and personal support of the prince of Wales. But such protection, they were willing to believe, would stand in the stead of public confidence, if it could not command it.

Many people indeed, had formed a fond hope, in spite of the vauntings of opposition adherents, that the prince of Wales would not step from an inactive and neutral situation, while any hopes remained of his royal father's recovery. His real friends had formed such a flattering expectation from the amiable demeanour of his royal highness, while his majesty remained at Windsor. During that period, he appeared to

treat the situation of his father with a becoming respect, and his afflicted family with consolatory attentions. At this time he had frequent communications with the king's ministers, and it was thought that his understanding, under the awful circumstances around him, might be so enlightened as to see the direct path of his duty; that by frequent intercourse with ministers, he might be weaned from his supposed prejudice against them; and that, while the king's recovery was a matter of any expectation, he would not, for their own sakes at least, elevate a set of men to power, whom that event would dismiss at once to their former situation. But this was the idle dream of a patriot imagination, that was soon destined to pass away. From the earliest apprehension of danger to the king's life, or the loss of his understanding, his royal highness had certainly determined upon the line of his political conduct;—he immediately fixed upon Mr. Sheridan to be his stationary confidant, and the organ of his intentions to the principal persons of the party he was determined to support. Thus the nation saw him place himself, as it were, at the head of it, and employ one of its most active partisans, as his confidential friend. But, in short, he appeared to take post in the very camp of opposition; and the duke of York, with his uncles of Gloucester and Cumberland, immediately repaired to join his standard. The nation beheld this arrangement with no common concern, and felt an additional impulse in their prayers for the recovery of the sovereign.

We acknowledge, without hesitation, that the possession and the attainment of power were the respective objects of the two contending parties. The ministers of the afflicted king, influenced by the hopes that were held out to them of his recovery, conceived it to be their duty to retain the situation in which he

had placed them, till the affairs of the nation should require their departure from it: while the party in opposition appeared to be in a state of anxious haste to enter into office, even to enjoy the short-lived advantages which might result from the most brief possession of it, lest the restoration of the king's health should exclude them from any advantage at all. We do not mean to express a party, but an unbiassed opinion, when we declare it to be our sentiment, that the minister and his colleagues, acted through the whole of this business, in a manner congenial to the constitution, and suitable to the dignity of the afflicted monarch, as it was followed by the general applause of the nation: while, on the contrary, the opposition manifested a most indecent hurry to possess themselves of power—conducted themselves with an apparent view to their own personal advantage, and held forth the protection of the future regent, as a reason for acting against the sense of a very predominant majority of the people.

At the moment when it pleased Heaven to deprive the king of his right understanding, he enjoyed as great a share of popular affection as he had at any time known since he succeeded to the British crown: and, from the sensibility of a generous people, that popularity was increased to the highest degree of national affection, from the very circumstance of his being in a situation that rendered him insensible to it. The ministers, therefore, who were known to have been honoured with his partial favour and unlimited confidence, would naturally find the political merit they might possess, to be greatly enhanced, on that account, in the public opinion. While the people looked with an unfavourable eye on the expected elevation of a set of men, whose unpopularity would be naturally increased, from owing their rise to power to no other circumstance whatever, but

an event that caused the affliction of the whole empire. We write with the freedom of history, and, we trust, without offence; but we are under the necessity of observing, that the great personage, into whose hands the regency of the country was about to be delivered, was not, at this time, a popular character in the nation he was about to govern. He was known to possess many amiable qualities, and an understanding far above the level of common men; and the errors of royal youth, would soon have been forgotten in the contemplation of princely virtues.—But it appears that his royal highness yielded himself up to the affections of his heart, and left his understanding unconsulted;—in the amiable ardour of providing for those, of whose zeal for his person he was convinced—of whose superior talents he was persuaded, and in whose political sentiments he acquiesced, his royal highness did not manifest a disposition to coincide with the wishes of the nation. The generous temper of an unsuspecting young man, might be easily worked upon by the arts of interested people, to appear at the head of a party, when he should be waiting in a dignified acquiescence with the proceedings of parliament, to place him at the head of an empire. His royal highness might be, and probably was, convinced, that the men he should take with him into power, were the best qualified in the kingdom, to direct the government of it; and having no doubt, as to the happy fruits of their administration, he might yield to no other impulse but that of his own partiality, in making them ministers.

While the arrangement of the regency was agitating in parliament, and had attained some degree of advancement, an opinion very generally prevailed, that the most distinguished characters of opposition, though treated with the utmost exterior respect, were not honoured

with the greatest share of the prince's real confidence. It was suspected, and with some degree of reason, that the politics of Carlton-house, required an acquiescence to certain propositions, and an engagement to forward certain measures, which, under any circumstances, would be very unpopular; and under those of the moment, would require the most active, and perhaps artful exertion of power, to bring into effect:—it might, therefore, be natural for those who manifested a promptitude to gratify any and every wish of their royal patron, to receive an adequate return of confidential favour. The calm integrity of the duke of Portland, would not knowingly stoop to any act inconsistent with it; and the towering spirit of Mr. Fox, would never be induced to attain its most favourite ends by little means. The interested views of favourite but needy associates, or the ambitious projects of a predominating female influence, would have to look for support from men of inferior character; and it was to such inferior characters that the prince was supposed to discover an infatuated prepossession. The duke of Portland wished to repress, in some degree, the ardent spirit which manifested itself in the party to possess themselves of power; and Mr. Fox was obliged, from illness, accompanied, as it has been thought, with no small degree of secret dissatisfaction, to retire, for a time, from the public contest of it. But when Mr. Sheridan dared to utter his taunts to the minister for retaining his official situation; and when Mr. Burke was so vehemently affected at the delay of ministers in offering their resignation, that he appeared to have lost his own reason, in describing the malady which had preyed upon that of the king, we discover the men in whom the desire of sharing the good things of government was the most ardent; and who, at the same time, possessed the insidious

faculty of persuading the prince, that the violence of their zeal in hastening the gratification of their own interested ambition, was nothing more than ungovernable ardour for his honour, and the good of their country.

In this contest, the king's ministers maintained the confidence, and received the applause of the people.—The first opinion of the physicians, especially that of Dr. Addington, had strengthened the resolution of administration, checked the ardour of opposition, and flattered the hopes of the nation. The second examination of the king's medical attendants, on which both parties seemed to place a very great reliance, and from whence they afterwards drew their respective conclusions, confirmed the idea, that there was a probability of his majesty's recovery: while Dr. Willis, who had been called to attend on the king, from his long and successful practice in that particular disorder with which he was afflicted, declared an assured confidence, that the royal mind would be restored to its former state of reason and intelligence.

A great change in the queen's sentiments became apparent at this time. The neutrality her majesty had originally adopted was dismissed, and the proceedings of the minister received her approbation and support. Many causes probably combined to produce the alteration. It was said, that apprehension of the abuse of power by opposition had been industriously infused by those whose interest it was to withhold it from them. It was certainly known that her majesty gave implicit belief to the assurances of Dr. Willis, that the recovery of the royal patient was not only probable, but possibly near at hand. With this persuasion, not only tenderness but wisdom dictated the conduct the queen pursued. On the other hand the prince, confiding in the great and universally

acknowledged pre-eminence of Dr. Warren; and remembering, that, to his perspicuity and ingenuousness, he owed the first knowledge of the real cause of his majesty's indisposition, naturally considered his opinion as entitled to respect and deference. This gentleman, in strong terms, reprobated the assertion of an amended state, and unqualifiedly declared his incredulity respecting a happy issue. Influenced by such contrary impressions, unanimity of sentiment could not be expected. Doubt, distrust, and coldness, unhappily succeeded to the confidence, esteem, and cordial affection, which had hitherto soothed the sorrows of the august relatives of the afflicted monarch.

The king's state, at this time, encouraged no hope of speedy restoration. On Friday and Saturday his majesty was much indisposed; and on Sunday his situation was deplorable. The coercive waistcoat was found to be insufficient, and a necessity arose of confining the royal sufferer to his bed for several hours. Exhausted strength, by degrees, rendered his efforts less powerful; and the failure of nature, rather than an abandonment of the malady, produced an appearance of tranquillity. Violent exertions frequently repeated, long confinements, want of usual air and exercise, produce the most lamentable effects. The flesh, gradually wasted away, had left the bones of every joint hardly covered; and the whole of his majesty's appearance was become so affecting, that even the chancellor's strong mind was overpowered at the first interview, and a flood of tears witnessed the involuntary sensibility.

Unpleasant altercations had arisen among the physicians. Willis, introduced by Addington, was strongly suspected of circulating reports rather gratifying to the minister than consonant to truth. He regularly sent to him every night a particular message, and generally by his son.

On the 16th, whilst the propositions were debating in the house of commons, Mr. Pitt and his friends declared that that evening, at eleven o'clock, the son of Dr. Willis arrived at the treasury, with the satisfactory account that a happy change had taken place, and that Dr. Willis considered it as a certain indication of speedy and perfect recovery. Dr. Warren, whose observations on the morning of that day had suggested a very different opinion, was much surprised at this account. He hastened to Kew early on the morning of the 18th. Dr. Willis met him in an anti-chamber; assured him the king was going on vastly well; said he was perfectly composed; and begged that Dr. Warren would not make a point of seeing his majesty, as his appearance would certainly disturb him. Warren, surprised at this language, desired to see the pages. To his first question, "How is the king?" the reply was, "Very bad indeed." To his second, "What sort of night has his majesty passed?" "A terrible one," was the melancholy answer.

Warren then insisted on being introduced; and he had the affliction to find the person of the illustrious sufferer under the powerful restriction which violent paroxysms make indispensable.

The sight of Warren produced no painful sensation. The king was not discomposed by it. A partial recollection, operating on an habitual consciousness of dignity, (which never forsook his majesty in his most unhappy moments,) he was prompted to say, "I have been very ill indeed, Dr. Warren, and I have put myself into this waistcoat, but it is uneasy to me; will you take it off?" Warren hesitated for a moment; but, attentively surveying the royal sufferer, he perceived that his exhausted strength made the indulgence safe; and he replied, untying the sad bonds, "Most willingly do I obey you, Sir."

Warren afterwards remonstrated with Willis upon the disingenuousness of his conduct, and protested that, so long as he should have the honour to retain his appointment to the care of the royal person, he should scrupulously discharge his duty to his majesty and to the public, whose anxious solicitude entitled them to full and true information respecting his state. Willis then resisting the request to subscribe the bulletin which the attending regular physician conceived to be the proper one, great altercation ensued; but he was at length induced to set his name to that which appeared on the 18th instant.

The perpetual diversity in opinion between the regular physicians and Dr. Willis, was a source of much affliction to the queen, and of perplexity to the people. The high reputation of the court-physicians, the extensive popularity they had justly acquired, not only amongst the inhabitants of the capital, but throughout the kingdom, gave them great superiority, in the general estimation, in a competition with Dr. Willis, whose retired situation and restricted practice had left him in a state of comparative obscurity.

The prince, having understood that the chancellor had used some expressions of which he thought he had cause to complain, desired to see his lordship, and generously afforded him an opportunity of vindicating himself, if the rumour were unfounded. The chancellor assured his royal highness, that he never had, even in thought, deviated from the very profound respect he owed him. He begged to know the full extent of what he had been charged with, in the full confidence of being able to exculpate himself. His lordship proceeded to say, that what opinions he had publicly advanced, his legal situation compelled; but that he felt himself strongly devoted to his royal

highness; and that he might assure himself that he should on no account unite with Mr. Pitt, or enter into any opposition to his royal highness's government, when his dismissal, which he saw was at hand, should take place. He should, on the contrary, give it every support in his power; and if, at a future day, his services should be thought of use, he should be happy to offer them. The chancellor spoke of Mr. Pitt as a haughty impracticable spirit, with whom it would be impossible for him ever cordially to unite. He added, that the whole party was split, divided, disunited, in a manner that would prevent their ever acting in opposition with vigour and effect.

Some very interesting facts respecting the state of the king's health, are contained in the second report of the committee appointed to examine the physicians, and which in a great degree elucidate the cause of the differences which subsisted between his majesty's medical attendants, and which has been previously alluded to.

Sir Lucas Pepys was the first examined, and declared "there was a positive order, that nobody shall go into his majesty's room without Dr. Willis's leave; that modes of coercion were not used before Dr. Willis came about the king; that sometimes his majesty is more irritable, when either Dr. Willis or his son is present; that he cannot speak with greater certainty than on his former examination, with respect to the time of his majesty's recovery."

Dr. Willis stated, that "his majesty's health renders him incapable of coming to parliament, or of attending to public business; that he could not now form any judgment or probable conjecture of the time that his majesty's illness is likely to last; that a more firm coercion has been used than since his last examination; that latterly he had scarcely read over the certi-

cate of the opinion of the physicians, and did not mind whether it was exactly agreeable to his opinion or not, rather than have any words; that he was not sure whether the certificate of the physicians was sent to St. James's with alterations by the ladies; that if the statement of the king's situation was not so favourable as he thought, he signed it, rather than have any dispute."

Doctor Warren related the circumstances of a transaction, in which Dr. Willis, in his opinion, made on a preceding day, a very unwarrantable use of the name of a great person.

The report proposed to be sent was written thus: "His majesty passed yesterday quietly, has had a good night, and is calm this morning." Dr. Willis desired that some expressions might be made use of, indicating that his majesty was advanced, since the day before, in his cure—I objected to this, because I had ample reason from my conversation with his majesty, and from the information which I had received from Mr. Charles Hawkins, to think the contrary, true.—Dr. Willis then said, "a certain great person will not suffer it to go so, and it will fall on you." I made no observation to Dr. Willis on those words; but after talking with him a little more on the subject of his majesty, composed, together with Dr. Reynolds, the following report:—"His majesty passed yesterday much in the same manner as he did before; has had a very good night; and is this morning as he was yesterday." Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Willis, and Dr. Warren, signed this report; it was sent up stairs, and was returned with an order to change the words "as he was yesterday," into "continues to mend."—Dr. Warren desired the honour of an audience, and upon stating his reasons why no amendment had taken place, the words "continues to mend" were given up; and the sentence "is this

morning in a comfortable way," was substituted in their place. Dr. Warren, when Dr. Willis used these expressions—"a certain great person will not suffer it to go so, and it will fall upon you," understood those words to convey to him, that a perseverance, in his opinion, would draw upon him the displeasure of the great person alluded to."

Sir Lucas Pepys being a second time called, stated, that "till after the examination before the privy-council, every account was purposely framed to give the public no sort of information of his majesty's situation."

Sir George Baker declared, that "he saw no present signs of convalescence in his majesty's disorder." That "the peculiar mode of coercion and management which has been used since Dr. Willis's arrival has made his majesty quieter and more manageable, but that he was not sure that any thing has been done by them towards convalescence."

Doctor Reynolds could not say "there was any actual amendment at present in his majesty's principal complaint;" that "he did not know of any thing that made the order, that no person should be admitted into his majesty's apartment (previously stated to have been written by Dr. Willis) without the permission of Dr. Willis, or his son, necessary or proper."

The following is the account given by Dr. Reynolds of the circumstances that attended the alteration made in the report by the physicians, respecting the state of his majesty.

"When Dr. Warren came down to Kew on Friday morning, the 2d instant, I saw him before he visited his majesty, and told him how I had found his majesty the evening before, and that morning when I visited him. After Dr. Warren had waited upon his majesty, he came into the room where we usually consult, and, after agreeing upon the prescription for

the day, we proceeded to consider what report we should send to St. James's; there were then present in the room, Dr. Warren, Dr. John Willis, and myself; and, as nearly as I can recollect, Dr. Warren and I agreed upon this report: "His majesty passed yesterday quietly, has had a very good night, and is calm this morning." I wrote it, read it over, and Dr. John Willis objected to it, alleging that it was not descriptive of his majesty's amendment, for that he certainly was much better, having, on the preceding day, and on that morning, said many pertinent and rational things. Dr. Warren contended, that several things said properly proved nothing; but that some things said immediately afterwards improperly, were decisive. Dr. John Willis contended, that a mitigation of symptoms was amendment. Dr. Warren did not consider that any amendment could take place, till there was an interval of an hour, or more, of reason and judgment. While they were in this argument, Dr. Willis, senior, came in, was shewn the report intended to be sent to St. James's, and did not at first reading it, disapprove of it; but upon Dr. John Willis's observing, that it did not contain so favourable an account of his majesty's situation, as the report which had been sent on the preceding day, he objected to it, contending that there was a material amendment, which ought to be reported.—Dr. Warren and myself, not seeing his majesty's state in the same light, thought that the report held out sufficient hopes to the public. Doctors Willis (I think both, but I am certain Dr. Willis, senior) observed that the queen would not suffer it to go so; and I cannot exactly recollect what words immediately followed, but Dr. Willis, senior, addressing himself to Dr. Warren, said "that it would fall upon him:" That expression I particularly remember.—We talked afterwards upon the sub-

ject, and drew up the following report: "His majesty passed yesterday much in the same manner as he did the day before, has had a very good night, and is this morning as he was yesterday." This report was carried up stairs, and when returned, it was accompanied with a desire that we would add to the end of the last sentence, "continuing mending:" I speak to the best of my recollection.—This seemed to Dr. Warren and myself more than the state of his majesty authorized us to say. Dr. Warren therefore desired the honour of an audience of her majesty, which was granted; and when he returned, the last part of the report was altered as follows: "and is this morning in a comfortable way," instead of "is this morning as he was yesterday."—I speak from memory—I have no notes. Dr. Willis continued arguing warmly with Dr. Warren, while I was writing the three reports—they were in the next room to that in which I was writing—the door wide open; and I heard Dr. Willis say to Dr. Warren, amongst other expressions of disagreement with him in opinion, that if Dr. Warren held the opinion which he maintained, that it impeached his common sense, or something else; to which Dr. Warren made no reply, only desired the persons present, among whom were lady Harcourt, lady Charlotte Finch, and general Gordon, to observe that Dr. Willis had made use of such an expression. Dr. Warren conducted himself through the whole of this unpleasant business with admirable temper."

Dr. Gisborne stated, that he understood the order put by the desire of Dr. Willis, prohibiting any person from entering his majesty's apartment without leave of Dr. Willis or his son, was to extend to the physicians.

Dr. Warren declared, he had observed a very great difference in his majesty at such times as he had seen and conversed with his majesty,

in the presence of Dr. Willis, or his son, and at such times when neither of these gentlemen were present; when Dr. Willis or his son were present his majesty was under great awe; when they were absent, he talked and acted very differently.

That he had been present when his majesty entertained himself in reading; that he had never seen him read more than a line and a half at a time, and that the manner of his reading was a strong proof of the existence of his malady.

Dr. Warren gave the following account of some incidents respecting the conduct of Dr. Willis, which have been much referred to:

"The day that I introduced Dr. Willis to the king, I summoned the rest of his majesty's physicians to a consultation at my house.—It was there first settled as a principle, that quiet of body and mind were to be endeavoured to be obtained by every means possible; and that every thing should be carefully kept from his majesty that might tend to prevent this desirable acquisition.—It was settled that a regular coercion should be made use of—that every thing should be kept from his majesty that was likely to excite any emotion—that though his majesty had not shewn any signs of an intention to injure himself, yet that it was absolutely necessary, considering the sudden impulses to which his distemper subjects people, to put every thing out of the way that could do any mischief.

"To all this Dr. Willis assented—yet the very next day he put a razor into his majesty's hand, and a penknife.—When I saw the doctor next, I asked him how he could venture to do such a thing—he said, he shuddered at what he had done.—As he made use of this expression, I did not think it necessary to say much to him upon the subject.

"On the 12th of December, as I apprehend, the king took a walk in the garden and some of the royal children were shewn to him—this produced a considerable emotion, which was accompanied with acts demonstrating that emotion, as I was informed, to the best of my memory, by Mr. Keate.—Notwithstanding this effect of seeing the children, Dr. Willis, the next day, introduced that person, whose great and amiable qualities we all know must necessarily make her the dearest and tenderest object of his majesty's thoughts:—The interview was short: his majesty was soon afterwards in a great state of irritation, and the strict coercion was, I believe, for the first time, actually applied that night—the blisters were put on that night likewise. The next time that I saw Dr. Willis, I spoke to him upon this subject with some degree of sharpness, because it was contrary to my opinion, and contrary to what had been settled in consultation: for it had been settled that whatever could be done by deliberation, should be referred to consultation; that the conduct of his majesty, in the interior room should be left to Dr. Willis's discretion, because it did not admit of deliberation—I do not know that I convinced the doctor that his opinion was wrong, but that the act was contrary to what was laid down in consultation could not be denied."

"I was always considered, by the highest authority, as the first physician, and therefore thought myself particularly responsible: I thought myself obliged to look into, and to inquire after every thing that related to his majesty: I did not suppose myself in a different situation upon the arrival of Dr. Willis, and therefore took the liberty of speaking to him with some degree of authority.—I remember, when his three attendants arrived, I sent for them into the physicians' room, examined them

very carefully, particularly as to the temper with which they conducted themselves towards those whom they attended, and spoke to them, as they were strangers to me, in such a manner as to let them know that their conduct would be strictly observed.

"My being first physician, made me talk to Dr. Willis about every thing that I heard of, that did not appear to me to be quite accurate, and sometimes led to disputes. I informed the doctor, that he was there in a double capacity, as physician, and attendant on his majesty in the interior room—that I must take my share in directing whatever related to him in the capacity of physician, though I should not interfere with respect to the conduct of his majesty in the interior room. Not many days after this transaction, I observed a book in his majesty's hands, which affected me much, and immediately determined me to bring a charge against Dr. Willis, for what I thought bad practice. I do not mean to bring the story of this book as a fault, because I believe there was no intention to convey such a book to his majesty: it was the play of King Lear, not in a volume of Shakespeare, but it was a corrected Lear by Colman, and mixed with his plays. I can have no reason to think that Dr. Willis could suspect that such a play was in that volume. His majesty told me that Dr. Willis brought him the book, and Dr. Willis did not deny it, when I spoke to him on the subject. I do not bring this as a fault, but it was the circumstance that determined me to put in execution what I had been thinking of before, with respect to Dr. Willis: for his majesty's observation on the book affected me strangely. I carried an account of this to the prince of Wales, and he desired me, as he had done in every case of difficulty that had happened, from the beginning of the illness, to lay the affair before the lord

chancellor. The lord chancellor went to Kew, I believe; and the result was, when I saw the lord chancellor, that the rules of the consultation should be strictly obeyed. Dr. Willis has a second time introduced the same great and amiable person. I was informed, that some degree of irritation came on in the night; but having collected, as I thought, from several small circumstances, that the power of introducing persons to his majesty, was to be left entirely to Dr. Willis, I did not make any complaint about it."

At this period the following beautiful prayer was publicly offered up to Heaven, for his majesty's recovery :

O merciful God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, accept, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy servants, who call upon thee in this time of their trouble.

We acknowledge that for our manifold sins and wickedness we are most worthy to receive thy chastisement. But thou, O God! in thy wrath, thinkest upon mercy. Vouchsafe therefore to hear the prayers of thy people, who with contrite hearts turn unto thee. Let thy merciful goodness regard their petitions which they offer unto thy Divine Majesty, in behalf of our sovereign lord the king, and thy people committed to his care. May it please thee to remove from him the visitation with which for the punishment of our transgressions thou hast seen it good to afflict him. Let thy gracious Providence guard and support him. Give a blessing to the means used for his recovery: restore him we pray thee, to his former health; and grant that he may continue, by his piety and wisdom, to maintain amongst us the blessings of true religion, civil liberty, and public peace; till it shall please thee to call him, full of years, and rich in good works, unto thy heavenly kingdom.

Extend, O Lord, thy mercies to the queen, the prince of Wales, and all the royal family; be favourable unto them, and hide not thy face from them in their affliction. Let thy heavenly grace guide and direct them, and may they receive from thy Holy Spirit those consolations which thou only canst bestow.

Finally, we entreat thee, that we, who now cry unto thee in our distress, may in thy good time be enabled to give thanks unto thee in thy holy place, for that thou hast regarded the petition of thy servants, and restored our sovereign to the ardent prayers of his people. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. Amen.

In order to obviate the necessity of entering into a full detail of the parliamentary proceedings relative to the restrictions which were to be placed upon the regent, we insert the following letter of Mr. Pitt to his royal highness, in which the scheme of government, as laid down by that minister, is proposed :

Sir,

The proceedings in parliament being now brought to a point, which will render it necessary to propose to the house of commons the particular measures to be taken for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority during the present interval, and your royal highness having some time since signified your pleasure, that any communication on this subject should be in writing, I take the liberty of respectfully entreating your royal highness's permission to submit to your consideration the outlines of the plan which his majesty's confidential servants humbly conceive, (according to the best judgment which they are able to form) to be proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

It is their humble opinion, that your royal highness should be empowered to exercise the royal authority in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, during his majesty's illness, and to do all acts which might legally be done by his majesty; with provisions, nevertheless, that the care of his majesty's royal person, and the management of his majesty's household, and the direction and appointment of the officers and servants therein, should be in the queen, under such regulations as may be thought necessary. That the power to be exercised by your royal highness should not extend to the granting the real or personal property of the king (except as far as relates to the renewal of leases) to the granting any office in reversion, or to the granting, for any other term than during his majesty's pleasure, any pension, or any office whatever, except such as must by law be granted

for life, or during good behaviour, nor to the granting any rank or dignity of the peerage of this realm, to any person, except his majesty's issue who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. These are the principal points which have occurred to his majesty's ministers.

I beg leave to add, that their ideas are formed on the supposition that his majesty's illness is only temporary, and may be of no long duration. It may be difficult to fix beforehand, the precise period for which these provisions ought to last; but if unfortunately his majesty's recovery should be protracted to a more distant period, then there is reason at present to imagine, it will be open hereafter to the wisdom of parliament to reconsider these provisions, whenever the circumstances appear to call for it.

If your royal highness should be pleased to require any further explanation on the subject, and should condescend to signify your orders, that I should have the honour of attending your royal highness for that purpose, or to intimate any other mode in which your royal highness may wish to receive such explanation, I shall respectfully wait your royal highness's commands.

I have the honour to be,

With the utmost deference and submission,

Your royal highness's

Most dutiful and devoted servant,

W. PITT.

December 30th, 1788.

The answer of the prince of Wales is dated the 2d January, and expresses with considerable force the sentiments which he might have been expected to feel upon a similar occasion. It was as follows:—

The Prince of Wales learns from Mr. Pitt, that the proceedings in parliament are now in a train which enables Mr. Pitt, according to the intimation in his former letter, to communicate to the prince, the outlines of the plan which his majesty's confidential servants conceive proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

Concerning the steps already taken by Mr. Pitt, the prince is silent—nothing done by the two houses of parliament can be a proper subject of his animadversion; but when previously to any discussion in parliament, the

outlines of a scheme of government are sent for his consideration, in which it is proposed that he shall be personally and principally concerned, and by which the royal authority, and the public welfare, may be deeply affected, the prince would be unjustifiable, were he to withhold an explicit declaration of his sentiments. This silence might be construed into a previous approbation of a plan, the accomplishment of which, every motive of duty to his father and sovereign, as well as of regard for the public interest, obliges him to consider as injurious to both. In the state of deep distress, in which the prince, and the whole royal family were involved, by the heavy calamity which has fallen upon the king, and at a moment when government, deprived of its chief energy and support, seemed peculiarly to need the cordial and united aid of all descriptions of good subjects, it was not expected by the prince that a plan should be offered to his consideration, by which government was to be rendered difficult, if not impracticable, in the hands of any person, intended to represent the king's authority;—much less the hands of his eldest son, the heir apparent of his kingdoms, and the person most bound to the maintenance of his majesty's just prerogatives and authority, as well as most interested in the happiness, the prosperity, and the glory of the people!

The prince forbears to remark on the several parts of the sketch of the plan laid before him; he apprehends it must have been formed with sufficient deliberation to preclude the probability of any argument of his producing an alteration of sentiment in the projectors of it. But he trusts, with confidence, to the wisdom and justice of parliament, when the whole of the subject, and the circumstances connected with it, shall come under their deliberation.

He observes therefore only, generally on the heads communicated by Mr. Pitt, and it is with deep regret the prince makes the observation, that he sees, in the contents of that paper, a project for producing weakness, disorder, and insecurity in every branch of the administration of affairs.—A project for dividing the royal family from each other, for separating the court from the state, and thereby disjoining government from its natural and accustomed support. A scheme disconnecting the authority to command service from the power of animating it by reward; and for allotting to the prince all the invidious duties of government, without the means of softening

ing them to the public, by any one act of grace, favour, or benignity.

The prince's feelings on contemplating this plan, are also rendered still more painful to him, by observing that it is not founded on any general principle, but it is calculated to infuse jealousies and distrust (wholly groundless he trusts) in that quarter, whose confidence it will ever be the first pride of his life to merit and obtain. With regard to the motive and object of the limitations and restrictions proposed, the prince can have but little to observe. No light or information is afforded him by his majesty's ministers on those points. They have informed him what the powers are, which they mean to refuse him, not why they are withheld.

The prince, however, holding as he does, that it is an undoubted and fundamental principle of this constitution, that the powers and prerogatives of the crown are vested there, as a trust for the benefit of the people, and that they are sacred only as they are necessary to the preservation of that power, and balance of the constitution, which experience has proved to be the true security of the liberty of the subject, must be allowed to observe, that the plea of public utility ought to be strong, manifest, and urgent, which calls for the extinction or suspension of any one of those essential rights in the supreme power or its representative; or which can justify the prince in consenting, that in his person, an experiment shall be made to ascertain with how small a portion of the kingly power, the executive government of this country may be carried on.

The prince has only to add, that if security for his majesty's re-possessing his rightful government, whenever it shall please Providence, in bounty to this country, to remove the calamity with which he is afflicted, be any part of the object of this plan, the prince has only to be convinced, that any measure is necessary, or even conducive to that end, to be the first to urge it as the preliminary and permanent consideration of any settlement in which he could consent to share.

If attention to what it is presumed must be his majesty's feelings and wishes on the happy day of his recovery, be the object, the prince expresses his firm conviction, that no event would be more repugnant to the feelings of his royal father, than the knowledge that the government of his son and representative had exhibited the sovereign power of the realm in a state of degradation,

of curtailed authority and diminished energy—a state, hurtful in practice to the prosperity and good government of his people, and injurious in its precedent to the society of the monarch, and the rights of his family.

Upon that part of the plan which regards the king's real and personal property, the prince feels himself compelled to remark, that it was not necessary for Mr. Pitt, nor yet proper, to suggest to the prince the restraint he proposes against the prince's granting away the king's real or personal property.

The prince does not conceive, that, during the king's life, he is, by law, entitled to make any such grant; and he is sure that he has never shewn the smallest inclination to possess any such power. But it remains with Mr. Pitt to consider the eventual interests of the royal family, and to provide a proper and natural security against the mismanagement of them in others.

The prince has discharged an indispensable duty in thus giving his free opinion on the plan submitted to his consideration.

This conviction of the evils which may arise to the king's interests, to the peace and happiness of the royal family, and to the safety and welfare of the nation, from the government of the country remaining longer in its present maimed and debilitated state, outweighs, in the prince's mind, every other consideration, and will determine him to undertake the painful trust imposed upon him by the present melancholy necessity (which of all the king's subjects he deplors the most) in full confidence, that the affection and loyalty to the king, the experienced attachment to the house of Brunswick, and the generosity which has always distinguished this nation, will carry him through the many difficulties, inseparable from this most critical situation, with comfort to himself, with honour to the king, and with advantage to the public.

On the same day that his royal highness wrote the foregoing letter, he received one from Dr. Willis, to inform him of essential amendment in the king. The queen wrote to Mr. Pitt to the same effect. Ministry presumed much upon these communications, and expressed their hopes, that his majesty might be well enough in the following week to signify his approbation of a speaker. Dr. Warren was still tenacious

of his former opinion; and assured the prince that, though the king was not then in the deplorable way in which he had often seen him, there was nothing in his majesty's present state that could warrant the expectation of recovery. The prince, confiding in Warren's judgment, naturally considered the favourable reports as mere fabrications, to serve a sinister purpose, and could not refrain from some expressions against the queen, who, relying upon the infallibility of Willis, considered the prince's backwardness to credit her assurances as an argument of his discontent at the nature of them. Officious persons, acting from indiscreet zeal, if not still more reprehensible motives, contributed to increase the subsisting discontents.

The entertainments given by the duke of York, having for their avowed object the conciliation of members of both houses; the conversations then naturally rested upon subjects interesting to the prince. At the three first, his royal highness was present, and expatiated with great eloquence upon "the indignities and injustice he had experienced from the usurpers of those powers of which he conceived he ought to be possessed, as the natural representative of a father, unhappily incapable of exercising them; and, to the infinite affliction of his family, not likely to be ever again in a situation to hold the reins of government." The prince spoke copiously, expressed himself with great propriety, and a degree of eloquence that would have ensured attention, if his rank had not commanded it. His royal highness gave a particular detail of some transactions at Windsor, in the beginning of the king's illness. He said, "reports have been circulated, that I had frequent interviews with Mr. Pitt. The truth is, I saw him but once during my stay at Windsor. In the first days of the king's illness, and before

I had recovered from the shock it occasioned me, some persons told me that Mr. Pitt and the duke of Richmond were come. My mind fully occupied by the sad state of things, I hardly heard, and it soon escaped my recollection that they were there.

"Some time after, Mr. St. Leger entered the room, and told me, that the duke of Richmond and Mr. Pitt had been waiting two hours. I awoke as it were from a trance, and desired that they might instantly be admitted. The duke was most obsequious, bowed incessantly. Mr. Pitt was most stately: he said he should do so and so, and looked with unforgiving haughtiness."

Adverting to the king's private concerns, the prince said, "that in a lucid interval of some hours, before his majesty left Windsor, he had talked consistently of the state of his affairs; said he had written, some time since, directions respecting the distribution he wished to have made of his property; but he doubted whether they were properly prepared. He hoped, however, that the purport would be attended to. The money he could dispose of was, he said, six hundred thousand pounds. Having six daughters, it was his wish to give each one hundred thousand pounds; his daughters he had ever considered as the objects of his peculiar care. His sons easily might, and certainly would, be provided for by the nation; but, for his daughters, a provision might not perhaps be made without difficulty."

The prince proceeded to say, "he had assured the queen he should be happy to conform in every thing to the wishes of his royal father; and he promised that every indication of his intentions previous to his indisposition, should be religiously observed. Her majesty having then received no unworthy impression, was satisfied and happy in receiving this assurance;

and permitted him and the duke of York to assist in packing up, and to put their seals upon the crown jewels, and some valuable moveables of the king's, which, together with the queen's jewels, were conveyed to Kew when the queen went thither." The prince added, "he had now to lament a sad revolution in her majesty's opinion, which had been effected by mischievous and designing persons. He had received a letter from her majesty, of her own writing, but not of her own dictating. It charged him with designing to take advantage of the weak state of the king, to get possession of his treasures; and to change the whole face of things." Ladies —, H—, and C—, were censured by his royal highness as the advisers of this letter. He said he had charged the last-mentioned with a knowledge of it; and, if he had not before had a certainty of it, her confusion would have given it.

The prince complained of the personal indignity with which Mr. Pitt had treated him on every occasion. He specified two important instances of most indecorous conduct towards him. The summonses to members of the privy-council to examine the physicians, (of which he had received no previous intimation,) and the restrictions upon the power of a regent, had both been sent by common treasury-messengers, and left without ceremony with a porter at Carlton-house.

The prince was not present at the fourth and last entertainment. The duke of York entered upon the interesting detail of the injury done to his brother in withholding his acknowledged rights, and of the imposition practised upon the public by fallacious representations of the king's state. His royal highness said, "It must be imagined that the subject was a most painful one to him; that only the solicitude he

felt to impress a sense of his brother's wrongs, and to warn gentlemen whom there was a design to mislead, could have induced him to enter upon it." His royal highness spoke concisely but clearly. He declared "that a string of fallacies had been obtruded upon the public; gave his royal word that not one of the king's children was permitted to approach him: and lamented that "the queen, wrought upon by insidious arts, particularly by the machinations of the chancellor, seemed resolved to abet the daring attempt to supersede his brother's just pretensions, and to promote the views of those most inimical to him."

His royal highness then mentioned an attempt, on the preceding Thursday, to prevent sir G. Baker's seeing the king, which was rendered abortive, by his steadily refusing to sign the bulletin, if that were not permitted. The duke said, "that endeavours had also been used, the following day, to prevent Dr. Warren's entering the royal chamber, Willis assuring him that the king was in such a state as promised immediate recovery, and that his presence would do harm. Warren, upon an acknowledgment being extorted, that the queen had seen the king that morning, insisted upon being admitted, as one whose presence was less likely to agitate the royal mind. He found his majesty sitting quietly, and attentively considering a court calendar, which he was translating, from beginning to end, into doggerel Latin. He accosted Warren upon his entrance, 'Ricardensus Warrenensus baronetensus.' The duke said, "Warren had assured him that, after a long and minute examination, he brought away the melancholy conviction that the mind was only subdued, and that its sanity was in no degree restored."

On the duke's being asked what was the general state of his majesty's health, he replied,

"he was told that he was deplorably emaciated; but that that circumstance was as much concealed as possible." His royal highness said, "that the queen seemed no longer to have confidence in any person but the chancellor, who, while he was flattering her majesty with every demonstration of zeal, was paying obsequious court to his brother." He added, "he seems to have learnt a lesson of duplicity from Pitt." "The chancellor," the duke continued, "seldom fails to receive three or four letters a-day from the queen, and he generally sees her once every day. Till concealments respecting the king began to be practised, and till the queen suddenly declared her resolution to accept the regency, if the prince would not accept it with severe restrictions, my brother and myself omitted not one day paying our duty to her. But since these events, our visits have been discontinued."

The duke concluded, by expressing in strong terms "the misery he felt at being compelled to make an appeal to the public, that induced the necessity of exposing circumstances, over which every principle of delicacy, feeling, and filial affection, prompted his royal brother and himself to throw a veil; and which a sense of what they owed to that public could alone prevent their interposing; their duty to that outweighing, in their estimation, all that could affect themselves."

For some days previously to the 24th of January, his majesty was terribly affected. On the 19th his majesty had been induced to walk in the garden. The anxiety of the amiable and royal female relatives drew them to an upper window. Regardless of every thing but his own impulses, his majesty threw his hat into the air, and hurled a stick he held in his hand to an incredible distance; such was the force that animated him. His majesty then

proceeded with a rapid movement to the Pagoda, which he was very desirous to ascend. Being thwarted in that, he became sullen and desperate, threw himself upon the earth; and, so great was his strength, and so powerful his resistance, that it was three-quarters of an hour before Willis and four assistants could raise him.

His majesty once, in walking through the gardens at Kew, suddenly conceived a strong inclination to go up the Pagoda. The attendants remonstrated against this desire, but his majesty persevered, and insisted upon having it gratified. An apprehension that his majesty might conceive some rash intentions, if suffered to go up, induced the attendants to exert their strength to prevent him; and when he found that he could not overcome them, he threw himself suddenly on the ground, declaring he would not quit that place. Fearing that the damp grass would be injurious to him, four of the attendants took him up, two holding his arms, and the others his legs. This transaction was seen over the wall by a passenger, who supposed that his majesty's calamities had concluded in the most fatal way, and a report to this purpose was soon spread over Kew and its neighbourhood.

His majesty at this time suddenly conceived an inclination to adopt the habit of the Quakers; and, as the attending physicians thought it proper to indulge him in every mode of a harmless tendency, he was permitted to assume the attire of those people, in which he at that time appeared.

Circular letters were on the 12th sent from the secretaries of state, to the different establishments, to announce the promising hopes of the king's recovery.

On the 13th, the prince of Wales and the duke of York paid a visit to Kew, but were

not permitted to see his majesty, by order of Dr. Willis. This prohibition was deemed very extraordinary at the time, as reports had been industriously circulated, tending to make the public believe that his majesty was in a very promising state of mental restoration.

It was indeed true, that his majesty was indisposed on Friday the 13th, but that was by no means symptomatic of his principal malady. It was no more than a sudden sickness, which was immediately relieved by an emetic, administered at the desire of the two physicians. After the operation his majesty found himself perfectly composed, and afterwards remained in a state of great tranquillity. His memory was so much restored, that he now made accurate and judicious observations on the comparative situation of every object; in particular, on the appearance of the gardens, &c. which he gave orders should be immediately forwarded in their respective improvements. On Saturday the 14th, his recollection was so perfect, that he sent a message to the queen, desiring her majesty to send him a curious watch key, which he described exactly, and mentioned the particular part of a cabinet, where he had himself deposited it many months ago. In short the king now saw and conversed with perfect composure with different people; and so sensible was he at this time of what had passed, that he only requested, "They would not talk to him on public affairs—Let me be quiet for the present."

One day, when his majesty walked to his observatory, Rigou, the keeper of it, who had not before seen the king since his illness, changed colour, "If you are not ill," said his majesty, "you are shocked, Rigou, at seeing me; but all will be well by and by." He examined the different instruments with as much composure, and asked as many pertinent ques-

tions, as ever he did in his life. The king likewise recovered within a few days, that rapid manner of asking questions, to which he was always accustomed.

On the 19th of February, the prince and the duke of York repeated their visit to Kew; but the queen still judged it inexpedient for them to be admitted to the king. Her majesty informed their royal highnesses, that, as soon as it should become proper for them to see the king, they should be apprized of it by her.

February the 20th, the chancellor acquainted the lords, that the king's health was then in such a progress towards perfect re-establishment, that there was a probability their lordships' interference would be no longer necessary. The duke of York replied, that, "as nothing could give him greater happiness than the restoration of his royal father, so he should have felt it a peculiar gratification to have been enabled to give their lordships an assurance of its probability from any authority; and he could not without infinite regret acknowledge, that he had not yet been permitted to see the king, though he had gone to Kew the preceding day in the hope of receiving that indulgence." His royal highness added, "that his brother must rejoice even more than himself at his majesty's perfect recovery, as that must deliver him from embarrassments which the nature of the bill must render almost insupportable; and which only his attachment to the state, and affection for the people, could have induced him to subject himself to."

On the 23rd, the prince and the duke of York went, upon invitation from the queen, to Kew, and were admitted to the king. Her majesty and Colonel Digby only were present. The king behaved with composure, and talked rationally. The conversation was confined to

topics that were general and indifferent; the death of General Wynyard, and the resignation of General Hyde, were principally dwelt upon. It was observed by the royal brothers, that the king's attention was chiefly directed to the duke of York, for whom it was supposed he had ever entertained a partiality.

One of the first symptoms of returning health in his majesty was his appetite; hitherto he had eaten what was given to him very sparingly, and with little or no discrimination of liking. His recollection also appeared to return at various periods, and not connected with that incoherent rhapsodical language which marked his discourse in the early stages of his malady.

In the mean time, party ran excessively high in the political world, and power alone appeared to be the leading aim of the great leaders of the opposition; but the prince of Wales, actuated by a sense of duty which he owed the country, under the peculiarly distressing event which at this time wholly engrossed the public attention, consented to take upon himself the regency, subject to the restrictions notified to him in the letter of Mr. Pitt.

The objections which were urged against the resolutions of Mr. Pitt, and the regency-bill, which was founded upon them, have been partly anticipated; and it would be an unprofitable profusion of time, to enter more minutely into the detail. Towards the close of the month, committees were appointed to wait upon the prince of Wales and the queen. The prince, in answer, intimated—"That, on the present occasion, his duty to his father, and his anxious concern for the safety and interests of the people, which must be endangered by a longer suspension of the royal authority, outweighed all other considerations, and determined him to take upon him the weighty and important

trust: he added, that he was sensible of the difficulties that must attend the execution of it, in the peculiar circumstances in which it was committed to his charge: but confiding, that the limitations on the exercise of the royal authority, deemed necessary for the present, were only approved by the two houses as a *temporary* measure, he entertained the pleasing hope, that his faithful endeavours to preserve the interests of the king, his crown, and people, would be successful."

The answer of the queen simply expressed her great obligations to the country, and intimated her earnest desire to discharge, to the satisfaction of parliament, the anxious and momentous trust committed to her. She added that it would be a great consolation to receive the aid of a council in the discharge of a duty, in which the happiness of her future life was so much concerned.

The following extraordinary anecdote is connected with his majesty's recovery, and it is particularly interesting, as it contains the first intimation to Mr. Pitt of his majesty's recovery.

On the 22d of February, 1789, Mr. Pitt and lord Melville were dining with lord Chesterfield, when a letter was brought to the former, which he read, and sitting next to lord M., gave it to him under the table, and whispered when he had looked at it, it would be better for them to talk it over in lord Chesterfield's dressing-room. This proved to be a letter in the king's own hand, announcing his recovery to Mr. Pitt, in terms somewhat as follows:

The king renews, with great satisfaction, his communication with Mr. Pitt, after the long suspension of their intercourse, owing to his very tedious and painful illness. He is fearful that during this interval, the public interests have suffered great inconvenience and difficulty.

It is most desirable that immediate measures should be

taken for restoring the functions of his government, and Mr. Pitt will consult with the lord chancellor to-morrow morning, upon the most expedient means for that purpose. And the king will receive Mr. Pitt at Kew afterwards, about one o'clock.

There could be no hesitation on the part of Mr. Pitt, but having held the necessary conference with the chancellor, he waited upon the king at the appointed time, and found him perfectly of sound mind, and in every respect as before his illness, competent to all the affairs of his public station.

This was the first notice in any way which Mr. Pitt received of this most important event; the reports of the physicians had indeed been of late more favourable; but lord Melville verily believed there was not a man except Dr. Willis who entertained the smallest hope of the restoration of the king's mind. Mr. Pitt continually declared this opinion to lord Melville, and they had both determined to return to the bar, as the dissolution of the ministry was then on the point of taking place.

The letter in question lord Melville took from Mr. Pitt, saying he had a trick of losing papers, and furnished him only with a copy, the original remaining in his lordship's possession. The king wrote the letter, at a little table of the queen's, which stood in the apartment, without the knowledge of any person, and having finished rang his bell, and gave it to his valet-de-chambre, directing it to be carried immediately to Mr. Pitt.

In Wilks's Letters, the following anecdote occurs, relative to his majesty's recovery:

"The king is better. - There are intervals of returning recollection, and freedom from fever. A captain Manners was mentioned. His majesty said, 'Let him come in; he is not only Manners, but *Good Manners*. A looking-glass, in a pier, between two windows, had been

covered with green cloth to prevent the king's seeing how greatly he was emaciated. The king asked the reason of the green cloth being put there. The answer was, 'To prevent the reflection of too much light.' His majesty said, 'How can that be, when it is from the light?' It is talked, that he will soon remove to Kew, and from thence to the queen's house. The prince is assiduous in his attendance."

On the 2d of March, 1789, an order was made by the lords of the privy council, for discontinuing the form of prayer for the recovery of his majesty's health, and substituting the following:

Almighty God, Father of all comforts, and the strength of those who put their trust in thee, we prostrate ourselves before thy Divine Majesty, and humbly presume to offer up our prayers and thanksgivings for thy mercy vouchsafed to our most gracious sovereign.

Thou hast raised him from the bed of sickness; thou hast again lifted up the light of thy countenance upon him, and blessed him with sure trust and confidence in thy protection. Confirm, O Lord, we beseech thee, the reliance which we have on the continuance of thy goodness; and strengthen and establish in him, if it be thy good pleasure, the work of thy mercy.

Grant that he may lead the residue of his life in thy fear, and to thy glory: that his reign may be long and prosperous; and that we, his subjects, may shew forth our thankfulness for thy loving kindness, and for all the blessings which, through his just and mild government, thou bestowest upon us. To this end we may be enabled by thy grace to maintain a deep and lively sense of thy good Providence, to pay due obedience to his lawful authority, to live in Christian charity towards each other, and to walk before thee in all virtuous and godly living.

Finally, we pray thee to keep him in perpetual peace and safety, and to grant that, this life ended, he may dwell with thee in life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Both houses met on March the 3d; the chancellor spoke in strong and decided terms of his majesty's capacity to exercise his royal functions.

Mr. Pitt simply informed the commons, that his majesty's amended health gave him reason to hope he might make his pleasure known to them on Tuesday, the 10th of March, to which day the house immediately adjourned.

The ministerial party employed the interval in rejoicing in the accomplishment of their hopes;—Opposition, in reprobating the arts which, they maintained, had substituted fallacy for truth. The extreme caution and reserve that enveloped the proceedings at Kew, were not calculated to disperse suspicion. Mr. Rammeau, his majesty's oldest and most trusted page, the person whom he had long employed to copy his private correspondence, was dismissed: he was said to be too inquisitive and too communicative. Three other pages were also displaced. Dr. John Willis, son to the eminent practitioner, and a student of his art, was appointed private secretary to the king; and four of Dr. Willis's men remained about the royal person, performing those offices which were in the page's province.

The prince had been refused admittance to the king, and had patiently acquiesced. The duke of York attempting to visit him, and being told by Dr. Willis, on the 4th of March, that it was improper his royal highness should be admitted to his majesty, gave a loose to his resentment,—asked by what authority he presumed to prevent his seeing his father, and threatened to knock him down, if he dared to oppose him. Dr. Willis then besought permission to apprize the queen of the visit. To this the duke consented, stipulating that the doctor should not be present at the interview which his royal highness declared *should* take place. The queen then hastened to the king's apartment, and the duke was admitted.

His royal highness did not depart with favour-

able impressions of the king's state; he scrupled not to declare that he thought his majesty very deficient in mental powers, and that he believed something like fatuity had succeeded to irritation.

On Thursday the 12th, the duke of York visited his majesty, whom he found cheerfully examining a number of spectacles, and selecting with peculiar care some which he said were for his dear Eliza. To change the conversation, the duke informed his majesty that he had three desertions from his regiment. The king, impatient of the interruption, broke out into violent abuse of the duke and his regiment, and became so perturbed, that the queen was obliged to command the attendance of Dr. Willis. On his appearance the storm instantly subsided; his majesty became quite composed; he talked of an intention to visit Germany; told the duke that he should send over a curricule and six small greys, and drive the queen and himself through that country. His majesty spoke of the high satisfaction he promised himself from visiting Potsdam, and seeing the Prussian army.

During the whole of this estrangement from reason, the subject which most frequently occurred, and with the most forcible effect upon the royal mind, was the American war. The recollection of the proceedings in it, and of the consequences that followed, often produced violent agitation, and strong expressions of resentment against individuals. Lord North was always adverted to; but ever in a manner expressive of the natural tenderness, humanity, and placability of his majesty's disposition. He never failed to conclude, respecting his lordship, in the same words, uttered in a hurried but softened and feeling tone,—“I was once very angry with him; but since his misfortune*, I have felt only compassion for him.”

* A total privation of the blessing of sight.

The duke of York, on his arrival in town, went to the house of lords, where the chancellor had just given assurances of his majesty's excellent state.

Upon his royal highness's communicating to his lordship the result of his observations, the chancellor, in his characteristic manner, replied, "By G— they always contrive to wind the king up when I am to see him; and he appears very well before me."

In the mean time, however, the nation appeared to tremble at the consequences which might result from the distracted position of public affairs. Mr. Pitt had, indeed, pledged himself by an unequivocal declaration in the house of commons, that he would on no account give a wanton opposition to the future measures of the regent's ministers; but a very general apprehension prevailed, that in case the new administration should call forth the necessary and predominant opposition of the late minister and his adherents, the interruptions of government might amount to a stagnation of it; and, as the regent was generally believed to entertain a personal dislike of Mr. Pitt, and the most rooted prepossessions in favour of his own ministry, it was apprehended that such a scene of confusion might ensue, as would threaten the nation with a still greater calamity than that beneath which it already laboured.

But at this moment when apprehension lay very heavy on the public mind, it pleased Heaven, whose design appears to have been to correct, and not to destroy us, to restore the beloved monarch to himself and his people. The bulletins of the 7th, 8th, and 9th March, announced his majesty to be in a quiet state. The account of the 10th stated, that his majesty had had a very good night, and possessed this morning more than usual recollection. The

next day his majesty was declared better. The succeeding one he was pronounced to be in a progressive state of amendment. The bulletin of the 13th said, his majesty had had four hours sleep, and was going on well.

The bulletins of the 14th, 15th, and 16th, pronounced a progressive amendment. That of the 17th proclaimed a state of actual convalescence. The succeeding ones, till the 25th, declared uninterrupted progress in well-doing; and that day, and the following day, gave to a loyal and delighted people assurances of the *absolute cessation of all complaint*.

The former order of government was restored, the executive power resumed its place in the constitution, and the nation was for some time insensible to every thing but joy, and active in nothing but the means of making it known to earth and to Heaven.

But although amid this scene of general exultation, disappointment did not dare to avow its feelings; it failed not to disseminate secret insinuations that the public joy was chargeable with prematurity and inconsiderateness; that in certain disorders, a relapse was no uncommon event, and that a mind which had been once violently afflicted with derangement, ought to be trusted with hesitation, as it seldom recovered the due vigor of its former state. The necessary caution with which his majesty was advised to act after such a severe illness, was assigned as a reason for believing that his cure was by no means a subject of reliance; and to false arguments, drawn from real facts, the emissaries of faction added falsehoods of every kind, in order, if possible, to create a popular incredulity as to the absolute recovery of the sovereign.

To have engaged at once in the fatigues of public business, would have been a greater proof of insanity in the royal mind, than any it

had discovered during the malady, with which it had been so sorely afflicted ; and, if it had been possible for his ministers to have advised such a proceeding, they would have belied, on his majesty's restoration to health, the dignified affection which they had manifested towards him in his state of infirmity. Besides, the king himself, though by no means indisposed to perform the necessary functions of sovereignty, though he did not suffer the requisite business of the state to be any longer delayed by his absence from it, yet he was sensible to the religious as well as political impressions of his situation ; but at the same time, interfered no more than was permitted to him by his medical attendants.

In a valuable French work, entitled *Histoire de ce qui est passé pour l'Etablissement d'une Régence en Angleterre en 1788 et 1789*, and from which we wish our limits would permit us to make more copious extracts, we find the following particular account of his majesty's precaution in interfering with political affairs :

“ Pendant cet ajournement, le roi continuoît à se mieux porter, et commençoit à voir la reine et les princesses. Il passa ensuite plusieurs heures à donner des ordres au chef de ses jardins ou à quelques artistes. Il s'amusa long-tems avec l'astronome de son observatoire de Richmond ; il se promena pendant deux heures avec le chevalier Banks, président de la société royale, et s'entretint avec lui sur différens sujets. Il vit une autre fois le chancelier, ensuite le prince de Galles, le duc d'York, M. Pitt, &c. Les médecins avoient obtenu de sa majesté, qu'elle ne s'occuperoit pas encore des affaires publiques, et il étoit défendu à ceux qui l'approchoient de lui répondre même, s'il venoit à entamer cette matière ; mais la précaution étoit inutile ; le roi sentoit lui-même qu'il devoit attendre que la rétablissement des forces de

son corps lui rendit la vigueur de son esprit pour l'appliquer à l'exercice de ces grands objets. Il parloit de sujets indifférens, mais qui suffisoient pour convaincre chacun que sa raison étoit entière, et de même, que son corps n'avoit besoin que d'une augmentation de forces.”

The mind of George III. was ever seriously disposed to public acts of divine worship, and he now considered it to be an indispensable obligation to connect a public tribute of his gratitude to Heaven with the first personal tribute he should receive of the affection of the people. It was, therefore, very soon after his restoration to health, that he declared it to be his intention to make his appearance in public an act of grateful devotion to Heaven, by going in state to the cathedral church of St. Paul's, on the day appointed to celebrate the national thanksgiving for his recovery.

Previously however to this public act of devotion taking place, his majesty was not inattentive to the offices of religion in private. On the 13th of March he received the sacrament at Windsor chapel, from the hands of bishop Hurd, who had attended his majesty for some time by express desire, on which occasion his majesty was attended by only three or four of his gentlemen. On Easter Sunday, the 12th of April, the king again partook of the holy sacrament from the hands of the bishop of Worcester, on which occasion he was accompanied by the queen, the three elder princesses, and by several lords and gentlemen, and ladies of the court.

The king's recovery gave the people frequent opportunities of testifying their loyalty, but on no occasion was it more conspicuous, than when the queen and princesses went to Covent Garden, for the first time, on the 15th of April. No sooner did the royal party enter their box,

than the cheers became excessive, and, at the same moment the curtain rose and displayed an appropriate transparency, emblematic of the occasion. Her majesty was evidently much affected, and burst into tears; the audience were also so much affected, that it was actually some time before they could call for "God Save the King," which was soon after performed, the whole house joining in the chorus. On that favourite anthem being again called for, her majesty was sufficiently recovered to view the scene around her, and she seemed to participate with no common feelings in the general joy.

During the play, Edwin drew down thunders of applause, by giving the king's health as a toast; and at the close, the national anthem not being given so speedily from the stage as public impatience demanded, the audience rose and sung it unaccompanied by the orchestra.

A handsome compliment was afterwards paid to the royal pair by Miss Brunton, now countess of Craven, on the king's first visit to Covent-Garden theatre after his recovery, accompanied by the queen and princesses—a circumstance which operated to fill the house beyond any thing since his first appearance after the accession.

At the conclusion of the *Dramatist*, when Miss Brunton says to Floriville—"If you would behold pure, unsullied love, never travel out of this country, depend on't,"—she added,

"No foreign climes such high examples prove
Of wedded pleasure, or connubial love:
Long in this isle domestic joys have grown,
Nurs'd in the cottage, cherish'd on the throne."

Much persuasion was employed to induce his majesty to give up the scheme of going to St. Paul's. Among others, the archbishop of Canterbury ventured to expostulate against it, and urged his fears that his majesty might not

be able to bear the fatigue and noise without risking the return of his malady—to which the king replied, "My lord archbishop, I have twice read over the report of the physicians, and if I can stand that, I can stand any thing."

This extraordinary and affecting ceremonial took place, however, on the 23d day of April, and offered a spectacle to the metropolis of the British empire, which far exceeded whatever is recorded of the ceremonies of pagan adoration, the games of polished Greece, and the triumphs of imperial Rome. It was the mind of the first nation in the world, co-operating with that of its sovereign, in a public act of thanksgiving to Heaven for the preservation of a good king, and the prosperity of a loyal people.

His majesty appeared on the occasion, under a deep impression of those feelings which became him. He wore a solemn demeanor suited to the circumstances and duty of the day; in which, however, there was nothing to give faction an hope, or loyalty a fear. But still the guileful tongue of political calumny spit forth its falsehoods, and a factious sophistry continued to employ its wicked but unsuccessful efforts, to propagate doubts, as to the real situation of the sovereign's health.

His majesty was accompanied to St. Paul's by the queen, their royal highnesses the prince of Wales, the duke of York, the princess royal, the princess Augusta, the princess Elizabeth, the duke of Gloucester, and the duke of Cumberland, and his highness prince William; and attended by both houses of parliament, the great officers of state, the judges, and other public officers, to return thanks to God for his great mercies and blessings.

The procession was begun at eight o'clock in the morning by the house of commons, in their coaches, followed by their speaker in his

state coach. Next came the masters in chancery, the judges, and after them the peers in the order of precedence, as they were marshalled by the officers of arms at Westminster, the youngest baron going first, and the lord chancellor, in his state coach, closing this part of the procession. Such of the peers as were knights wore the collars of their respective orders.

Afterward came the royal family, in order of precedence, with their attendants, escorted by parties of the royal regiment of horse-guards.

Their majesties set out from the queen's palace, soon after ten o'clock, in a coach drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, (in which were also two of the ladies of her majesty's bed-chamber,) followed by their royal highnesses the princesses, and proceeded through the gate at the Stable-yard, along Pall-mall, and through the Strand, amid the loyal acclamations of a prodigious concourse of people.

The streets were lined as far as Temple-bar, by the brigade of foot-guards, the grenadier companies of which were posted in St. Paul's church, and in the church-yard, and patrolled by parties of the royal regiment of Horse-guards. The avenues into the streets through which the procession passed, were guarded by the queen's light dragoons. From Temple-bar to the church, the streets were lined by the Artillery-company and the militia of the city; the peace officers attended both within and without the city, to preserve order.

At Temple-bar his majesty was met by the lord mayor in a gown of crimson velvet, by the sheriffs in their scarlet gowns, and a deputation from the aldermen and common-council (being all on horseback,) when the lord mayor surrendered the city sword to his majesty, who having returned it to him, he carried it bare-headed before the king to St. Paul's.

His majesty being come to St. Paul's, was met at the west door by the peers, the bishop of London, the dean of St. Paul's, (bishop of Lincoln,) the canons residentiary, and the king's and other officers of arms; the band of gentlemen pensioners, and the yeomen of the guard attending.

The sword of state was carried before his majesty, by the marquis of Stafford, into the choir; where the king and queen placed themselves under a canopy of state, near the west end, opposite to the altar.

The peers had their seats in the area, as a house of lords, and the commons in the stalls. The upper galleries were allotted to the ladies of her majesty's bed-chamber, the maids of honour, and such other ladies of distinction as attended on this occasion. The foreign ministers were placed in the two lower galleries, next to the throne: and the lord mayor and aldermen in the lower galleries, near the altar.

The prayers and litany were read and chanted by the minor canons. The *Te Deum* and anthems composed for the occasion were sung by the choir, who were placed in the organ loft, and were joined in the chorus, as also in the psalms, by the charity children, in number about 6,000, who were assembled there previous to their majesties' arrival. The communion service was read by the dean and residentiaries; and the sermon preached by the lord bishop of London, from Psalm xxvii, 16: "O tarry thou the Lord's leisure; be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart: and put thou thy trust in the Lord."

Then followed the anthem, expressly selected and commanded by the king.

The patrons of the charity children appeared with large gold and silver medals, by Pingo, pendant on ribands, in commemoration of the royal visit. On the face of the medal was the portrait of his majesty: motto, "Georgius III.

Mag. Br. et Hib. Rex." On the reverse was the west front view of St. Paul's cathedral; motto round the legend, "*Lætitia cum pietate*:" and on the exergue, "*Deo opt. max. Rex pientiss. pro salvte rest. V. S. L. M. Apr. 23, 1789.*"

Divine service being ended, their majesties returned with the same state to the queen's-palace, at about half an hour after three o'clock. The guns in the tower and in the park were fired three times: first, upon the king's setting out; secondly, at the singing of *Te Deum*; and thirdly, upon his majesty's return: after which the brigade of foot guards fired a *feu de joie* in St. James's-park, being drawn up in front of the queen's-palace.

The public demonstrations of joy and loyalty by the inhabitants of London and Westminster, on the occasion of his majesty's first appearance in public since his happy recovery, exceeded all expression; and on a subsequent evening the illuminations, in all parts of the metropolis, surpassed in splendour and magnificence all former exhibitions.

The king on this happy occasion was dressed in the Windsor uniform, and his behaviour during the service was highly devout and impressive. Indeed, throughout the whole day he shewed that he was completely master of himself, handing the queen out of the coach, and pointing out to her notice every thing worthy of admiration. The queen herself was the picture of happiness. She and the princesses displayed blue silks, trimmed with white, and bandeaux inscribed, "God save the king."

The pleasure received by the whole royal party was fully expressed by their countenances; and so forcibly was it felt by the surrounding throng, that it was actually with the utmost difficulty the congregation could suppress their plaudits, notwithstanding their full recollec-

tion of the awful place in which they were assembled.

The effusions of joy by the myriads in the streets exceeded all expression. Indeed, the acclamations of the crowd were unanimous; and were fully sufficient to convince his majesty that he truly reigned in the hearts of his people, in spite of all preceding wiles and clamours of party or faction.

The whole of this part of the scene seemed to convey an unmixed gratification to the royal visitors. The queen, in particular, appeared remarkably cheerful, both in the procession and the cathedral—his majesty placid and serene. The ringing of bells was continued through the day; and the church steeples were dressed with flags, especially that of St. Bride's, which, by a whimsical arrangement, was graced with a large display of colours belonging to the Queen man-of-war.

Upon the whole, the solemnity was conducted with great order; and in the entire line of march the utmost possible decorum was preserved. The anticipated dangers perhaps conduced to keep the streets more free from overwhelming and riotous crowds than they otherwise would have been: but the arrangements were judicious, and the conduct of the military was most exemplary.

Much indeed was owing to the people themselves, for it was apparent, by the countenances of all, that they came forward with a determination to be in good humour, which turned out to be the truth, the multitude that filled the pathway seeming equally happy with those under cover, or elevated upon the scaffolds: so that those who were stationed to keep them in order had very little more to do than to see the procession with their fellow citizens in the rear. Nay, the military, both officers and men, went much further, for their attention to the specta-

tors on foot was most accommodating, giving them every assistance, and affording them every facility in their power.

After the king's recovery, and before the procession, his majesty sat to Barry for his portrait. A day or two after the procession Barry waited upon the king. "Well," said his majesty, "did you see the grand sight the other day?" Barry answered, that he had an excellent view of the whole exhibition from a window on Ludgate-hill. "You had the advantage of me then," said the king, "for I saw nothing but the backs of my horses."

It was a singular circumstance connected with the king's recovery, that it was even celebrated in Germany, where, at Ratisbon, the members of the Scotch monastery there declared it to be the most joyful day they ever beheld; when the abbot Arbuthnot and his religious community appointed the first of May as a thanksgiving in gratitude for that event. All the ambassadors of various courts at the diet, protestants and catholics, with their ladies, the chief magistrates of the city, &c., graced the solemnity in full gala dress, and, without distinction of religion, praised the Father of all for the restoration of a beloved monarch. High mass was sung by the abbot, who also chaunted the *Te Deum*; and not an individual in the city who did not seem to share in the feelings of the day.

When divine service was finished, the Hanoverian minister, in absence of the English one, paid a visit to the abbot to thank him in the name of his court; and the whole affair was highly complimentary to the good sense and loyalty of those Caledonian benedictines.

At Calcutta, the king's restoration was celebrated in the following manner:

At sun-rise, a royal salute was discharged from the artillery of Fort William. In the even-

ing, at sun-set, the corps of artillery, two companies of his majesty's 76th regiment, and the battalion of European infantry, marched from the fort to the Esplanade, where they fired a *feu de joie*. As soon as the troops had taken their ground on the Esplanade, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the saluting battery of the fort, and was repeated after the first fire of the *feu de joie*, and again after that of the second. All the ships and vessels, English, French, Dutch, American, Portuguese, &c., &c., lying off Calcutta, hoisted their colours, and such of them as had guns on board, fired royal salutes at one o'clock.

In the evening the concert and supper given by the right honourable the governor-general, attracted the most brilliant and numerous assembly that was ever witnessed in India. The concert began about nine o'clock. The selection of the music was extremely happy and judicious. In the performance of the coronation anthem, several ladies and gentlemen lent a most pleasing vocal assistance, which produced a grand and delightful effect.

The concert ended about twenty minutes before twelve o'clock, when the supper rooms were thrown open, and displayed a very handsome repast, arranged with much neatness and taste: the whole entertainment was conducted with great propriety, and did much credit to the manager: at the principal table there were about a hundred and forty persons sat down to supper. The ladies and greater part of the company retired about half-past one, but the rooms were not entirely cleared of their visitors at four o'clock in the morning.

Private individuals of every class appeared to vie with each other in testifying their loyalty on his majesty's restoration, among whom lord and lady Cremorne rendered themselves conspicuous. They made the whole parish of

Chelsea a scene of peculiar rejoicing. They had completely new clothed thirty-six girls of the school of industry, who, in procession with the Sunday and charity schools, to the number of nearly two hundred and fifty children, were attended by their masters, mistresses, and the principal inhabitants, and conducted to divine service at the royal chapel of the college. The organ was played by Dr. Burney, and particular psalms and anthems selected and sung, adapted to the occasion. From the chapel they adjourned amidst crowded files of beholders, to a plentiful dinner, provided for them by his lordship; and afterwards walked through the parish to his beautiful villa on the banks of the river. A little girl of the industry school addressed lady Cremorne in a short speech, expressive of gratitude to their kind benefactors. "God save the King" was sung by all, accompanied with a band of music; after which her ladyship gave to each child a little present, and a card inscribed by her own hand, with a text to recommend piety and loyalty for the blessings they enjoyed; and the happy groupes were then dismissed to their respective homes. The sight was truly interesting and pathetic; many a spectator shed tears of silent applause; and the whole was conducted with the greatest decorum. Of the children in particular, it is but just to remark, that the decency and propriety of their manners were as conspicuous as the very neat improvement of their garb, reflecting equal credit on their respective institutions, and the bounty of their noble patrons.

But the most unequivocal instance of loyalty appeared at Stanmore, in Middlesex, where a worthy magistrate, who was a very opulent brewer, distinguished his joy on his majesty's restoration, by a procedure that will demonstrate his loyalty, both in the present and future ages.

Mr. Clutterbuck, upon a confirmation of the king's convalescence, caused a tub to be built, sufficiently capacious to contain seven hundred barrels of ale, and as soon as completed, invitations were sent to many genteel families in the neighbourhood to be present at its christening: when the company being assembled, the following words appeared painted in capital characters, viz.:

To commemorate the joyful event
of a beloved Monarch restor'd,
this cask is nam'd
THE RECOVERY.

A bottle of wine was then thrown against the vessel; the name was thus confirmed, and it is not to be doubted, but for years to come, many will be rendered happy from the Recovery.

The company was then invited to descend into the tub, where music was ready, and after singing "God save the King," and going down a dance, were entertained with a very genteel collation.

The city of London, as in general on such occasions, took the lead in presenting an address to his majesty on his recovery, and it was remarked at the time, that although his majesty appeared rather emaciated, yet that his manners had assumed a greater degree of dignity, and that he delivered his answer in a slower and more suppressed tone of voice than he was in general accustomed to do.

When his majesty received the address of the city of London, he was seated on a chair of state, attended by several noblemen of the household. The lord mayor and sheriffs were introduced by the lord in waiting, assisted by Sir C. Cottrell, master of the ceremonies; when, bending on their knee, they presented their address, which the king received with great affability, and returned the following answer:

I thank you for this fresh mark of your loyalty, and of your affection for my person. The expressions of fidelity and attachment, which I receive from my loving subjects, are most grateful to me.

The city of London may always depend upon my watchful attention to their liberties, commerce, and happiness.

The promised appearance of his majesty at court on his birth-day, was however to confirm what was generally wished and very little doubted, that he was in such a state as might justify the national hope, that he would be long continued as a blessing to his people. His absence, however, from the drawing-room on the 4th of June, though it did not deprive loyalty of its confidence, occasioned it to stagnate, till his majesty's intention of meeting his parliament on the Tuesday following, to receive the new speaker of the house of commons, was authentically made known. On that day the king went in the usual state to the house of lords; he was seen once more on the throne of the British empire, and appeared to his loyal people in such a state of health and animated satisfaction, as to afford them the happiest of prospects, that of enjoying, under his benign reign, a long continuance of national prosperity.

It must have been highly pleasing to his majesty to observe, that the spirit of loyalty which so universally prevailed throughout every description of British subjects on his restoration to his people, also inspired the representatives of foreign monarchs with an emulation to testify the joy of their respective courts on so happy an event.

In this compliment to England, France took the lead, with one of the most magnificent entertainments ever seen in England; at which were present the royal family, and all the principal nobility of both parties.

The French ambassador's house, which was on a large scale in Portman-square, was laid out in the most convenient style the apartments could afford.

On the ground floor, at the right of the grand entrance, was an oblong temporary room, raised for the occasion, with a space in the centre railed in for a certain number of dancers, which his excellency had ordered for the amusement of the company.

At the head of the room was a chair of state, prepared for her majesty, and chairs on each side, for the prince of Wales, duke of York, duke of Clarence, princess royal, princesses Elizabeth, Augusta, and Mary; dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, prince William of Gloucester, and his sister princess Sophia.

On each side of the grand saloon was a transparent painting; that on the right of her majesty, representing the genius of France: congratulating the genius of England on the recovery of the king, an excellent likeness of whom the goddess of health held in her hand; on the left was a representation of the graces attending her majesty, and an angel preparing to crown her.

The dances continued until one o'clock, when the supper-rooms were opened, and displayed a scene of luxury and magnificence scarcely to be described.

About nine hundred cards of invitation were given out.

The marquis del Campo, the Spanish ambassador selected Ranelagh for the fete given to the queen of England on his majesty's recovery, and it far surpassed in splendor any of the fetes which preceded it.

The whole of the external front of Ranelagh-house was illuminated in a novel manner, and with uncommon brilliancy.

The ante-rooms were all splendidly deco-

rated, and gave a promise of what was to follow.

The portico immediately leading to the rotunda, was filled on each side with rows of myrtle and rose-trees, with carnations and pinks between.

The rotunda at the first breaking to the sight, had the most superb appearance ever seen. The continued lamps spread around the roof had a striking effect.

The lower boxes of the rotunda formed a Spanish camp, striped blue and red. Each tent guarded by a boy, dressed in a beautiful Spanish uniform. The gallery formed a temple of Flora, which was lighted by a great number of gold baskets, containing wax tapers, ornamented with roses, &c.

A rich fire-work was displayed in the garden, which her majesty had an opportunity of viewing from the gallery behind her box. It was formed in the shape of a triumphal arch, with transparent medallions of the king and queen, and over the bow the inscription of "God save the King." At one o'clock, on a signal given, the curtains before the recesses were instantly drawn, and an elegant supper discovered at one moment. The company amounted in the whole to two thousand.

The mental state of his majesty at this period, is illustrated in an interview which the late G. Hardinge, esq., one of the Welsh judges, and well known for his classical acquirements and general literary attainments, had with their majesties at Windsor in 1789, and the account of which we give entire from Mr. Nichol's entertaining work :

"I arrived at the queen's-lodge at twelve; and was carried to the equerries room. Colonel Digby came to me, civil and gentlemanlike. He chatted with me for half an hour; and when he left me, said, 'he would let the king know,

through general Harcourt, that I was there.' In a few minutes I was gallanted up stairs into madame Schwellenberg's dining apartment. There I found general Harcourt, who is a very agreeable man. He told me, that when the king (who was going to the Castle to receive the address of the clergy) should come out of his apartment, he would let him know, and receive his commands.

"In a quarter of an hour two royal coaches came to the door, and an equerry handed the queen into the first. The king followed her without a thought apparently of poor me. Princess royal and Augusta followed. This filled the first coach.

"No. 2 had princess Elizabeth and a bed-chamber woman. Then, a-foot, my friends Digby and Harcourt. When they were flown, the porter came to me, and said, 'general Harcourt had named me to the king: but that his majesty, being in a great hurry, had said nothing. That, if I pleased, I might wait till his majesty's return; which, the porter said, would be in an hour and a half.' This I thought was as much as to say, 'If you go, you will not be missed.' In half an hour Mrs. Schwellenberg's German footman came to lay the cloth, and produced the dining apparatus. For want of occupation, I formed an acquaintance with him, and learned that Madame Schwellenberg sat at the head of the table; the Misses (Burney and Planta) right and left of her, and any visitor at bottom. The room is pretty enough, and clean; but furnished with a cheap kind of paper, and linen curtains. Observing a large piece of German bread, I fell to, and eat a pound of it. The hour and a half having expired, the regals returned, and then I heard the queen most condescendingly say, 'Do find out Mr. Hardinge, and beg of him to come and see us.'

"Her butler out of livery came in to me, and desired me to follow him."

"I went through a very handsome apartment into another, most beautifully fitted up, with a ceiling of the modern work, 'done,' as the king told me, 'in a week.' Into this room I was shut; and found in it, standing by the fire, without any form, the king, queen, three princesses, and this bedchamber-woman, whoever she was, for I have not made her out, but liked her very much (because she seemed to like me.) It is impossible for words to express the kind and companionable good humour of the whole party. I almost forgot that any one of them was my superior. The king looked fifteen years younger, and much better in the face, though as red as ever. He said a number of excellent things, and in the most natural way. The queen, with amazing address and cleverness, gave a turn to the conversation, and mixed in it just at the right places. You will not believe me when I tell you, that I passed half an hour, at least, in the room."

"The princesses looked, as they always do, the pink of good humour. The princess royal had a very fine colour; the two others were pale. The king did a very odd thing by the princess royal; but I loved him for it. He said, 'he would ask me, as a man of taste, what I thought of the ceiling;' and then called upon the princess royal to explain the allegorical figures on the ceiling, which she did, blushing a little at first in the sweetest manner, with distinct voice and great propriety of emphasis. This one trait would at once demonstrate how very kind they were. The king began by asking me, 'how I could run away from London, and give up my fees?' I told him that I *never* minded fees, but *less* when they interfered with my sense of duty to him. The queen then came up to me, and said, 'You have less merit

in the visit, because a little bird has told me that you are on your way to your Circuit.' This produced the topic of my *Circuit*, and the king said, 'That he understood Moysey to be a good man in domestic life.'

"We went slap-dash into politics, queen and all. The king laughed heartily at the *Rats*, by that name, and said they were the boldest Rats he ever knew, for that all the calculation was against them. 'Even * * * * * said, it was probable I should recover; not that I am recovered, according to some of them. And yet I have read the last report of the physicians, which is a tolerable good proof that I am well. By the way, your uncle, (earl Camden), is considerably better, and I flatter myself, that my getting well has done him good.' I then said, 'that I had left him in some alarm, how he was to wear the Windsor uniform with a tie-wig over it, from the fear that he should be mistaken for an old general that had fought at the battle of Dettengin.' The queen said, 'Oh! I plead guilty to that; and I see you enjoy it.' 'I,' said Hardinge, 'will enjoy it, for though he is very good natured, he loves a little innocent mischief.' The king then told me the whole story of his conference with Pitt; commended the house of commons, and said, 'his illness had in the end been a perfect bliss only to him, as proving to him how nobly the people would support him when he was confined.' This tempted me to say, that 'it was no political debate, but the contest between generous humanity and mean cruelty, and it interested human nature.' The king seemed very much pleased with this idea, and worked upon it. I commended the conduct of the bishops, and it made them laugh! Said the king, 'You mean to commend it as a wonder!' He talked over lord North and the duke of Portland. He talked of the chancellor, of Loughborough, and even

of Mr. baron Hotham; and said, 'you are almost the only man who loves the land for its own sake.' Then we talked of Mrs. Siddons, Jordan, &c.; and the queen said, 'Siddons was going to Germany, to make the English find out, by her absence, that she was good for something.' Then he flew to Handel; after which the king made me a most gracious bow, and said, 'I am going to my dinner.' I was near the door, made a low bow to the females, and departed."

The following anecdote will testify the sense which his majesty entertained of his situation; for during the period of his illness, when every word was weighed, when every look was scanned, several of the attendants at Windsor were more than once thrown into astonishment at the remarks of their illustrious sufferer.

One afternoon colonel G—— was desired to play a game at draughts with the sovereign, by way of passing away the time. His majesty, as at other intervals, uncommonly lucid, kept his adversary's skill on the watch for an advantageous move. At length the opportunity arrived, when the colonel exulting said, "Now, sir, I shall beat you; for I am going to make a king." "Then," said the monarch, looking significantly, "You cannot make a more unhappy thing!"

In order to complete his majesty's recovery, and to remove him from a too close attendance to those forms of state, to which he was obliged to conform at Windsor, a trip to Weymouth, was determined on. Accordingly on the 25th of June, at a little after seven o'clock in the morning, their majesties and their royal highnesses the princess royal, princess Augusta, and princess Elizabeth, set out for his royal highness the duke of Gloucester's lodge, at Lyndhurst. They were accompanied by ladies Elizabeth and Caroline Waldegrave, lord Courtown, general

de Bade, colonels Goldsworthy and Gwynn, Misses Burney, Planta, &c. At three o'clock, the royal tourists arrived at Lyndhurst, in Hampshire, near which is the manor of Langley, held as a royalty by the feudal tenure of presenting to the king, whenever he shall come within the limits of the New Forest, a brace of white greyhounds, with silver collars, coupled together with a gold chain, and led by a silken string. The lord of the manor, at that period, was sir Charles Mills, bart.; an elderly clergyman, who, knowing that his majesty intended to stop at his house in the forest, and which had been for years occupied by the late duke of Gloucester, took care to be prepared for this ceremony, and was in due attendance. Colonel Hayward, as principal bowman of the forest, was in waiting to receive his majesty, attended by all the keepers, in green uniform, laced with gold, and ornamented with ribands, inscribed, "God save the king." They accordingly met the royal party about four miles from Lyndhurst, and rode with them to the entrance of the king's house, round which was an innumerable crowd, upwards of three miles in extent. On alighting, his royal highness the duke of Gloucester received their majesties, whilst the loyal salutations of the assembled people rent the air.

The whole scene, of a mighty monarch familiarly unbending in the midst of his subjects, was gratifying to every breast. After dinner their majesties looked out of the windows, to admire the enchanting prospect; and were instantly hailed by a succession of national songs, in the chorusses of which the queen and princesses joined with the utmost good-humour and affability. In the evening, the king, accompanied by her majesty and the princesses, walked round the village, mixing in the simplest manner with the peasantry, and affably noticing

all ranks of persons that came in their way during the progress of the ramble.

On the arrival of the royal travellers at Southampton on the twenty-sixth, the king and duke of Gloucester being on horseback, they proceeded through the town to the audit-house, amidst the hurrahs of the people, the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy. The procession through the town moved very slowly, and many carriages and gentlemen on horseback attended. The royal visitants continued in the audit-house about an hour, and went from thence on foot, accompanied by the corporation in their robes, to the quay and platform, at which place they took their leave, and rode round the beach. They then went up East-street, and stopped about half an hour at colonel Heywood's, before they set off on their return to Lyndhurst.

In the evening, the whole party walked to an eminence in the forest, called the duke of Bolton's seat, in order to enjoy the very extensive prospect that may be seen from it. In this route they were attended by a very numerous but respectful body of the trades people, who were saved from a complete wetting, by his majesty's skill in the weather, for, on asking the name of a distant object, and being told it was Portsdown-hill, the king instantly turning round, and looking at a black cloud, said facetiously, "And pray, colonel, what prospect is that?—I fancy if we don't get home, we shall soon know." In a moment all was hurry to return, and they were just in time to escape from a summer deluge. The evening was spent in domestic amusements, and in witnessing the slight-of-hand tricks of the then celebrated Jones, whom his majesty instantly recollected, after an interval of twenty years. On the twenty-seventh the king was occupied in the morning in reading despatches from the duke of

Leeds' office; after which the royal tourists set off on an extensive excursion through the forest, proceeding to Cuffnells, the seat of the late Mr. Rose; thence to Rufus's stone, an obelisk raised to mark the spot where the second William was slain by the arrow of Sir Walter Tyrrell, glancing from a tree, as it was said, but supposed to have been an intentional stroke to get rid of a tyrant. Their course thence was to Baldrewood, the seat of lord Delawar, returning to Lyndhurst, where they dined; and in the evening visited Lymington, alighting at the town-hall to receive the congratulations of the corporation, but were prevented from a walk through the town by the boisterousness of the weather; so that after showing themselves for some time at the windows, they proceeded to enjoy the extensive prospect from Hurl Cliff, about five miles distant, and thence returned to Lyndhurst.

Sunday, the twenty-eighth, was spent in exercises of devotion: the royal family walking to the church without ostentation, and freely mixing in the assembled crowd. The text chosen by the clergyman, the reverend Willis Compton, on this occasion, was from Colossians, iii. 25: "Set your affections on things above, and not on things on earth:" after which there was the very novel scene of the whole congregation singing "God save the King," accompanied by instrumental music. In the evening, the royal party walked through the town, amidst the blessings and salutations of the people, who were now assembled from all parts of the country in the most astonishing multitudes.

On Monday, the journey was continued through Blandford, where his majesty received an address; through Salisbury, where, as at many other places, triumphal arches were raised, with a hogshead of strong beer at each:

and in the evening they arrived at Weymouth, the corporation, and numbers of the inhabitants, going to the turnpike; from whence they preceded the royal carriages to Gloucester-house, whilst royal salutes were fired from a sloop of war, a custom-house cutter, and the fort. The royal arrival was celebrated in the evening by a general illumination.

Exactly at four o'clock on the 30th, their majesties, with the royal suite, arrived at Gloucester-house. At the turnpike they were met by the corporation, and on their entrance into the town the cannon at Portland-castle were fired, and immediately answered by the king's ships in the road, after which the royal fort fired twenty-one guns—a chain of boats was moored along the bay to welcome their majesties, which they did by giving them three cheers.

The time of his majesty was chiefly occupied at Weymouth, in receiving the formal addresses of the corporation, or the visits of the nobility and gentry of the vicinity, and partly on horse-back, rambling over the hills and downs, or walking on the esplanade amidst respectfully joyous groupes of his loyal subjects. The sabbath-day was always passed in the offices of religion, the royal family walking to church without parade or ceremony, the service of the day always ending with "God save the King."

The Magnificent, of 74, commanded by captain Onslow, afterwards sir Richard Onslow, and the Southampton frigate, being appointed to attend upon his majesty during his stay at Weymouth, the latter vessel was chosen by his majesty for his marine excursions, they being considered to be highly beneficial to the complete restoration of his health.

During the attendance of the men of war, the condescending behaviour of the royal party could not fail to make a deep impression on

the feelings of the honest seamen; his majesty often conversed with the humblest sailor in the ship, and he seemed particularly to enjoy their coarse and eccentric manners. All unnecessary pomp was laid aside, and even that regard to personal safety was dispensed with, which is generally the first consideration in marine excursions. So little did their majesties pay in general any attention to present comfort, that on one occasion the whole party returned from their marine trip with a complete ducking, for, although it blew at the time a strong gale with a heavy sea, and the rain was descending in torrents, their majesties would not allow the awning to be spread, but seemed actually to enjoy the scene, and landed in the highest spirits, and laughing at each others' wet jackets.

During one of these marine trips, his majesty was conversing with captain Douglas of the Southampton, when the lieutenant of the watch, agreeable to nautical custom, informed the captain, whilst conversing with his majesty, that it was twelve o'clock. "Make it so, sir," replied the captain, meaning thereby to order the bell to be rung for the close of the nautical day, and the commencement of a new one. His majesty appeared much struck with this, and in a very pointed manner said to the captain, "You, sir, possess more power than I do, I cannot make it what time I please."

When on a subsequent day, the Southampton sailed with the royal party on a short cruise, his majesty gave an express order that no salutes should be fired, nor even the royal standard hoisted either by the men-of-war or the barges. In short, it seemed his anxious wish to disencumber himself of all state; indeed the whole royal party, by their affability and condescension, endeared themselves more and more every day to the people on shore,

and to the officers and seamen afloat. Throughout the whole of their excursions there was on the part of the royal pair no assumption or painful pre-eminence, or imposing superiority. The awe of state was removed by the ease of the gentleman, and the princesses were the theme of praise from every tongue.

His majesty, on the 28th of July, took an airing towards Abbotsbury-castle otherwise Pin-money-castle; he was very particular in examining every part of this romantic piece of antiquity, with the utmost minuteness, and appeared not a little pleased with its whimsical title; he made several facetious comments on the occasion.

One morning his majesty was both amused and delighted with a demonstration of simple-hearted loyalty, by the appearance before Gloucester-lodge of two waggons loaded with the peasantry principally females, who stopped before the house bare-headed, though exposed to a heavy rain, singing "God save the King," the close of which was accompanied by three loud huzzas, which were listened to by the royal visitants, who, in the most condescending manner exhibited themselves to the honest party.

In one of the king's excursions, during the hay-harvest, in the neighbourhood of Weymouth, he passed a field where only one woman was at work. His majesty asked her where the rest of her companions were. The woman answered, they were gone to see the king. "And why did you not go with them?" rejoined his majesty. "The fools," replied the woman, "that are gone to town, will lose a day's work by it, and that is more than I can afford to do. I have five children to work for." "Well then," said his majesty, putting some money into her hands, "you may tell your companions who are gone to see the king, that the king came to see you."

Time now passed on in aquatic trips, public amusements, country rides, sea-bathing, &c., from which a visible alteration took place in his majesty's health, and it was so decidedly in an improving state, that the attendance of his regular physicians was not required. Addresses on this happy event were presented from every quarter of the western part of the kingdom.

On the 18th, the royal party, with the exception of the queen, went on board the *Magnificent* for the first time. On this occasion his majesty behaved with the most marked condescension, remaining uncovered on the quarter deck for some time, bowing to the officers as he passed them into the cabin. The behaviour of the princesses was equally conciliatory, and they gaily declared that if they had been boys, the sea should have been their element. Every part of the ship was visited, and the king was so forcibly struck by the whiteness of the decks below, that he observed to the princess Elizabeth his doubts whether the palace of Windsor could boast of such cleanliness: indeed his majesty was so delighted with the scene, that he promised captain Onslow to bring the queen to drink tea on board.

The theatre was now become such a favourite resort of royalty, that the manager found himself enabled, by crowded houses, to engage the first Thespian performers; accordingly Mrs. Siddons and Quick were both on his list, and added to the attraction of the scene. On the 3d of August, the whole of the royal party went on board the *Southampton*, and proceeded to Lulworth-cove, from whence they visited Lulworth-castle, the seat of Mr. Weld, brother to Mrs. Fitzherbert, and a Roman catholic, where they were received by that gentleman at the vestibule of the venerable castle, eight of his children dressed in uniform being placed on the steps leading up to it. An elegant collation,

served up on gold plate prepared for the occasion, richly embossed, and each piece with the motto of "God save the king," was then partaken of; after which their majesties, &c., proceeded to the chapel, and were highly delighted with an anthem, which was excellently performed, both vocal and instrumental. The pleasure of the visit was so great, that the king prolonged it beyond his original intention; having commanded a play for the evening at Weymouth: so attentive was he, however, to shew a polite remembrance of those left behind, that finding his return at the proper time somewhat doubtful, he with the most marked condescension despatched a servant express, to desire that the farce should be performed at the usual time of opening the house, in order that the audience might not be totally deprived of amusement until his return. This was strongly felt by the audience; and when the royal party made their appearance, the enthusiastic joy with which they were received was highly descriptive of the public sentiment. An equally magnificent and interesting reception, as at Lulworth, awaited the royal visitants at Sherborne-castle, the seat of lord Digby, on the 4th, where they were met on their entrance into the park by two societies belonging to Sherborne, consisting of upwards of three hundred persons, displaying colours, and accompanied by a band of music. The concourse of people assembled of both sexes, well dressed and happy, from a circle of forty miles, was almost incredible; and the delight of their majesties was extreme, when on approaching the castle they were received by a ladies' boarding school, consisting of nearly forty lovely blooming girls, habited in white uniform, with royal blue ribands, inscribed, "God save the king;" between whom a passage was formed for their entrance into the house, whilst the

charming innocents strewed flowers in their path.

The king was now understood to have recovered his health in a surprising degree; and addresses upon this happy event poured in from every part of the kingdom: but in the midst of this blaze of loyalty from his own subjects, a most palpable insult was offered to him by those who had once been under his sway. On the 6th of August, being on board the *Southampton*, on a cruise in the offing, the royal standard flying, and accompanied by the *Magnificent*, a large American ship, proudly displaying her thirteen stripes, thought proper to pass close to the *Southampton* under a press of sail, not deigning to pay even the customary salute to a man of war, of lowering her topgallant sails. Of this insult, it was judged improper for the *Southampton* to take any immediate notice; but the *Magnificent* instantly made sail after the rude *Columbian*, and having fired a shot a-head of her, she thought proper to make more than the necessary reparation, by lowering both topgallant-sails and top-sails, as a mark of deference.

This circumstance of the American vessel gave rise to the following *jeu d'esprit*:

These are the triumphs, George, thy annals boast
A cock-boat humbled, for an empire lost.

On the 8th of August, his majesty held a court at Weymouth, in consequence of a partial change in the ministry, and for the purpose of proroguing parliament from the 11th of August to the 29th of October. He also conferred an additional dignity on several noblemen of both the English and Irish peerage.

On the 13th, their majesties and the princesses set out from Weymouth on their tour to the westward, and arrived, on the evening of the same day, at the deanry of Exeter. On

their arrival, two triumphant arches were prepared, superbly decorated, for their majesties to pass under. They were received by the magistrates of the town with every mark of respect, at the entrance of the town, attended with the union societies, consisting of upwards of three hundred, walking in procession, with colours flying, and bands of music playing "God save the king." An astonishing number of people were gathered together from all parts of the country, and expressed their loyalty in terms of enthusiastic joy.

On the following day, the mayor and corporation attended with an address, and were graciously received. This was followed by an address from the clergy of the diocese, which met the same reception.

In the memory of man, not even at a general election, was there ever such a crowd of people, and every person vying with each other to testify their loyalty.

• Their majesties left Exeter on the 15th, and arrived at Saltram, the seat of Lord Barrington, the same evening. As soon as their majesties and the royal family arrived at Saltram, a signal was made, by hoisting a flag at the round tower in the wood.

The royal party remained at Saltram during the 16th, and on the following day they arrived at Plymouth, where they were received with all the honours of a garrisoned town, and immediately afterwards proceeded in barges, in grand naval procession, on board the impregnable of 90 guns, commanded by Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton. The scene was much heightened by the novel exhibition of a very handsome man-of-war's cutter, rowed by six young women, and steered by a seventh, all habited in loose white gowns, with nankeen safeguards and black bonnets, each wearing a sash across her shoulder, of royal purple, with

"Long live their majesties," in gold characters. The cutter kept close to the royal barge during the whole of the excursion, and attracted the notice, not only of the king, but of the whole party.

The 18th was distinguished by a grand naval review of a squadron under the command of Commodore Goodall, consisting of seven sail of the line and a frigate, which was inspected by his majesty from the Southampton, accompanied by the queen and the princesses, and attended by the Lords of the Admiralty. When aboard his majesty examined all parts of the vessel, and, while on deck, was constantly engaged either with his glass to catch distant objects, or making himself, by quick inquiries, conversant with the whole system of the sails and rigging.

The scene at a distance of some leagues in the offing, was beautiful beyond description; as upwards of one hundred vessels, of all sizes, were assembled on the occasion, either on service, or by curiosity, and the whole of the royal party expressed the highest delight with the naval exhibition.

On a visit to the dock-yard, on the ensuing day, nothing passed unnoticed by his majesty. He minutely examined every thing in the yard, particularly the mode of coppering the ships; whilst every process was executed in the various departments for his inspection. On his visit to the victualling-office, on the 20th, he was very particular in his inquiries respecting the quality of the provisions; tasting the biscuit, and ordering some of the beef to be sent to Saltram for the same purpose. He also took a minute survey of the citadel, of all the military works, and of the gun-wharf; and examined all parts of the Hamoaze, proceeding afterwards to the Maker Tower; assiduously accompanied whilst afloat, by the party of mermaids already

mentioned. A visit to Mount Edgumbe filled up the 21st, from whence the views are most enchanting; and on this occasion the princess royal observed to her sister, that it was only recently they had seen the beauties of nature in perfection—that their lives hitherto had been spent rather in a cloister than in a kingdom, abounding every where with such lovely prospects, and inhabited by so generous a people.

After a splendid dinner, the earl and countess of Mount Edgumbe enjoying the honour of sitting at the royal table, the party proceeded to Saltram, surrounded by boats filled with thousands of well-dressed people, all manifesting their admiration and loyalty by the loudest acclamations.

On the 28th, their majesties returned to Weymouth, where they were received with the customary naval and military ceremonies.

The 31st was employed in a nautical excursion, on which occasion the queen paid a handsome compliment to captain Douglas, of the Southampton, presenting him with a small gold medallion of that ship to be worn by Mrs. Douglas, as an ornament attached to her neck-lace. In the course of this trip, his majesty was particularly delighted with the sailors' hornpipes, and with the rude and uncouth amusements in which they were engaged.

One of the honest tars, supposing himself gifted with Parnassian fire, composed a song upon this occasion, which was sung before his majesty, to his great amusement, to the tune of one of their own hornpipes.

The following are the three first verses of the song, and they will serve as a specimen of the elegance of nautical poetry:

Portland Road, the king aboard, the king aboard,
Portland Road, the king aboard,
We weighed and sailed from Portland Road.

The king he sat with a smile on his face, a smile on his face,

The king he sat with a smile on his face,
To see the after-guard splice the main brace

The princesses sat upon the skids, upon the skids,
The princesses sat upon the skids,

To see the midshipmen play with the kids.—&c. &c.

One of the most interesting spectacles which his majesty witnessed on board the Magnificent, was the naval mode of performing the divine service, which took place on Sunday the 6th, when the whole of the royal family, with a long train of nobility, went on board that ship for the express purpose of joining with the honest tars in their devotions.

An awning was spread over the quarter-deck, whilst the flags of all nations were suspended from the poop to the mainmast, completely enclosing the space like a large apartment. The binnacle was fitted up as an altar, serving also the purpose of a pulpit. Chairs were placed for their majesties on the star-board side, and opposite to them on the opposite, accommodations for the nobility and royal suite; whilst a-midships sat the officers, behind whom were ranged the ship's company, seated on forms erected out of the capstan bars, placed upon match-tubs and shot-boxes, so as to form a gradual elevation, like the pit of a theatre. It was remarked at the time, that the great uniformity of appearance, the attention and solemnity observed on this novel occasion, were awful, and did much credit to every man on board; whilst the sovereign himself seemed to feel the full force of the scene. The reverend Mr. Clifton, chaplain of the Goliath, performed the service, accompanied by a very applicable and most excellent discourse, delivered impressively, but with a pleasing and respectful diffidence, before the august visitants, who were very attentive to it,

especially towards the close, when the preacher ventured in a modest but well-written panegyric on the best of kings, for the excellent example he had ever shewn his subjects upon all occasions, but more especially in his due performance of religious duties. It was observed by the spectators that this part of the discourse wound up the feelings of the royal family; and her majesty, in particular, could not refrain from expressing them by her tears. The princess Elizabeth also most strongly caught the same emotions as her mother at this part of the sermon, and expressed them as feelingly. No sooner was the service over, than the king stepped forward, and addressed Mr. Clifton, thanking him for his sermon, hoping he was not fatigued, with several other marks of condescension; in which he was cordially joined by the queen, who particularly requested that the discourse might be transcribed for her future inspection. The whole of the royal family now retired to the cabin to partake of a collation; after which the princess Elizabeth, expressing a strong desire to see the ship's company at their dinner was conducted to the break of the quarter-deck, where she remained some time, highly delighted with the rude scene of comfort, and diffusing her smiles to every tar that came near to her place of observation.

Their majesties left Weymouth on the 14th at nine in the morning, and arrived the same evening at Longleat, the seat of the marquess of Bath. An immense concourse of people assembled from all quarters in the park, in the hope of obtaining a view of the king. The noble host, somewhat alarmed, inquired of his steward what was best to be done on the occasion, who replied, that in order to gratify the whole assemblage, he would advise that his majesty would condescend to exhibit himself from the

flat roof of the mansion, with which the king in the most good-natured manner complied. An attendant took the liberty of inquiring of his majesty, who had been accustomed to large assemblies, of how many persons he might imagine the *mob* below consisted? On which his majesty courteously remonstrated: "*Mob*, sir, implies a crowd that is disorderly, the people below are peaceable; *multitude* if you please, but not *mob*."

On the 18th, their majesties arrived at Windsor, and it was with extreme pleasure that the health of his majesty was observed to be completely restored, and he appeared to enter into his customary pursuits and amusements with increased satisfaction.

There were two circumstances which were mentioned at the time as having had the effect of expediting his majesty's departure from Weymouth. The first was, a serious accident which befel his royal highness the prince of Wales, on his return from a magnificent fête given by earl Fitzwilliam, at Wentworth-house, in Yorkshire, at which it was calculated, in honour to his royal highness, that not fewer than 40,000 persons were entertained in the noble park. About two miles from Newark, a cart crossing the road struck the axle of the prince's coach, and overturned it. It was on the verge of a slope, and the carriage fell a considerable way, turned over twice, and was shivered to pieces. His royal highness was undermost in the first fall, and by the next roll, the carriage was brought uppermost, when he disengaged himself from his perilous situation. His royal highness was obliged to remain at Newark, and an express was sent forward with the intelligence of the disaster.

From London immediate information was sent to their majesties at Weymouth, and, as the despatch did not state the extent of injury

which his royal highness had received, their majesties conceived that it might have been withheld from them from considerate motives, and therefore determined to hasten to town.

The second cause which was adduced, was the annoyance which his majesty received at Weymouth, from the number of anonymous letters which were sent to him. Some of these letters cautioned him not to ride out on particular days, nor on particular roads; but although they failed to make any impression on the mind of his majesty, as he very often chose the actual road, which had been prescribed to him as attended with danger, yet, for the purpose of removing him from such an unpleasant and continual state of annoyance, it was judged prudent to hasten his departure; and, as his health was then apparently restored, a further residence at Weymouth was not considered, under all circumstances, as advisable.

The year 1789 will be long considered as one of the most memorable in the history of nations, and the events of which had a predominant influence on the political reign of George III.

At this period, a great part of Europe was involved in civil dissensions, or foreign hostilities. The emperor of Germany had provoked an insurrection in Brabant, and, in conjunction with the Czarina, declared war against the Porte; the king of Sweden had made an irruption into Russian Finland, whilst the prince royal of Denmark, the son of Caroline Matilda, to whom the administration had long been delegated, invaded the Swedish province of Wermelandia. By the mediation of England, however, an armistice was concluded, which became both to Sweden and Denmark the basis of a treaty of neutrality. But France was now the centre which attracted the attention of an astonished world—in France was now exhibited a

scene prelude of the great drama hereafter to be developed, in which patriotism and perfidy, heroism and ferocity, have produced events without a parallel in the history of ages.

The rise, the progress, and the consequences of the French Revolution, are too faithfully preserved in the pages of history, to require from us any illustrative comment, but it was during this period that the character of George III. displayed itself in all the nobleness of its nature, and it will for ever remain a theme of admiration for the historian. In this view of his life, the departed monarch deserves, and justly, every tribute which posterity can pay him. He never forgot his early declaration, that he gloried in the name of a Briton—and Britain now reciprocates the sentiment, and glories in the pride of his nativity. He was, indeed, a true-born Englishman—brave, generous, benevolent, and manly; in the exercise of his sway, and the exercise of his virtues, so perfectly consistent, that it is difficult to say, whether as a man, or a sovereign he is most to be regretted. He preserved for the Protestant the inviolability of the constitution, and to the Catholic, he gave a great example in the toleration of his principles, and the integrity of his practice. It is on these topics, that the historian will dwell with delight. He has little to censure, and much to commend. When he speaks of arts, manufactures, literature, and the sciences, he will point to George III. as their patron. He will linger long among those private virtues, which wreathed themselves round his public station, which identified his domestic with his magisterial character, and made the father of his family, the father of his people.

But in our estimate of his character, let us not forget the complexion of the times in which

he lived; times of portent and of prodigy, enough to perplex the councils of the wise, and daunt the valour of the warrior; in such extremities, experience becomes an infant, and calculation a contingency. From the terrific chaos of the French revolution, a comet rose and blazed athwart our hemisphere, too splendid not to allure, too ominous not to intimidate, too rapid, and too eccentric for human speculation. The whole continent became absorbed in wonder, kings and statesmen fell down and worshipped, and the political orbs which had hitherto circled in harmony and peace, hurried from our system into the train of its conflagration. There was no order in politics, no consistency in morals, no steadfastness in religion,

“Vice prevailed, and impious men bore sway;”

Upon the tottering throne, the hydra of democracy sat grinning—upon the ruined altar, a wretched prostitute received devotion, and waved in mockery the burning cross over the prostrate mummers of the new philosophy. All Europe appeared spellbound; nor like a vulgar spell did it perish in the waters—it crossed the Channel. There was not wanting in England abundance of anarchists to denounce the king, and of infidels to abjure the deity. Turbulent demagogues, who made the abused name of freedom the pretence for their own factious selfishness—atheists looking to be worshipped—republicans looking to be crowned—the nobles of the land were proscribed by anticipation, and their property partitioned by the disinterested patriotism of these agrarian speculators.

Who was it then during this awful crisis that saved England from the hellish saturnalia which inverted France? Was it the prophetic inspiration of Mr. Burke? The uncertain adhe-

sion of a standing army? The precarious principles of our navy at the Nile? or the transient resources of a paper treasury? No! to none of these causes may the salvation of England be attributed; but it was saved in the storm by the personal character of George III. When universal warfare was fulminated against monarchy, England naturally turned to its representative at home, and what did she find him? Frugal, moral, humane, religious, benevolent, domestic; a good father, a good husband, a good man; rendering the crown she gave him still more royal, and not only preserving, but purifying the trust she had confided. She looked to his court, and did her morality blush at the splendid debauchery of a Versailles? Did her faith revolt at the gloomy fanaticism of an Escorial? Far from it; she saw the dignity which testified her sway tempered by the purity which characterized her worship; she saw her diadem glowing with the gems of empire, but those gems were illumined by a ray from the altar; she saw, that aloft in her triumphant chariot, her monarch needed not the memento of the republican, *he never for a moment forgot that he was a man.*

It was, however, his example as a man of piety and religion that shut the floodgates of revolution and anarchy to his country; for so essential is religion to the support and welfare of every society, that almost the whole of those dreadful calamities of which France became the conspicuous theatre, may be ascribed to that fatal and ruinous infidelity, which all the superior orders had imbibed. If there be no religion, experience, not less than theory, assures us, there will be no morals in a nation. If the motive to purity and integrity be taken away, the practice must necessarily degenerate. The first great error committed by the French revolutionists, was their absurd and wanton

sacrifice to their irreligious prejudices; and this was the first measure, that raised against them a host of foreign and domestic enemies—this was the first insult upon justice, that sullied the fairness of their proceedings, and alarmed and irritated mankind. So entirely, indeed; does an irreligious spirit deprave and derange the human mind, that even the exalted talents of Mirabeau were, in this instance, the dupes of his prejudices; and if he did, as it is affirmed, assert, that to effect a revolution, they must begin by uncatholicising France, we can only refer it to that dark cloud which ever obscures the understanding of infidels, that he did not see the attempt would be most fatal to the cause of liberty. The example of France, in this instance, will operate as an instruction to other states; and though we should blush to appear as the advocates of any thing, which is contrary to the principles of liberty, either civil or religious, yet we cannot help adopting the sentiment of a late writer, “That the most dangerous of libels are those against God, and that whoever attempts to deprive civil society of the useful restraints, and of the solid consolations of a future state, deserves exemplary punishment.”

Had George III. been of a less intrepid mould, he might have ended like the sovereign of France, who courted his enemies, and was butchered by them. Had he been a profligate or an infidel prince, the work of anarchy would soon have been accomplished. The people of England would have had no moral standard round which to rally. The bulk of mankind would have been taught by their political pastors, to see the original sins of monarchy reflected in the vices of the monarch; the English nation would have despised their sovereign, and abandoned him as a being unworthy of support, or they would have degenerated under his vile example; and king and country would have

sunk in one common ruin. The king's tenacity of purpose was not more conspicuous in his prosecution of measures, than in his treatment of men. The countenance he gave to his successive ministers, was but slightly influenced by the degree of popularity, or odium of which they were the objects. It has been said, indeed, that their favour at court was inversely as their estimation out of it; that the aristocracy of name and talent was dreaded no less than that of rank and property; and that Mr. Pitt was looked upon for many years with worse than indifference by his royal master. But the favourite maxim of the late reign is represented to have been the rigorous exclusion of the great whig families from power. This improvement on the policy of George I. and II. has been accounted for in various ways, and as it tends to throw some light upon the character of George III. it calls for some particular remarks.

It was accounted for, in the first instance, that it was an arbitrary prejudice instilled into the mind of George III. by lord Bute, and too early fixed in the royal mind to be for ever after unsettled; yet the head of the house of Russell was employed to negotiate the peace of Paris, in the very meridian of lord Bute's ascendancy.

Again, the Pretender had gone out of fashion—the house of Stuart became extinct, and it was no longer necessary to conciliate the aristocracy of England. This may account for such a prepossession, if the existence of the feeling itself be antecedently proved. But that may well be disputed. The whig principle was never preferred for its own sake, even by those of our English sovereigns, who owed their crown to its recent and victorious operation. William III. himself exclaimed, “That Toryism was the true religion of a king;” but a king of England, not driven to extremes, will naturally be afraid to employ the aristocracy, whether whig

or tory, since that would be to arm with the powers of the crown, those who are the natural enemies to its encroachments, and thus to establish an undue preponderance on one great member of the state.

George III. is reported to have said of Mr. Addington, "He has no dependence but on me," and he acted upon the same principle steadily throughout; and indeed he possessed that accidental felicity, which is considered essential to the completeness of every human reputation. He had not merely great and useful qualities, but they were qualities adapted to the position in which he was placed, called for by the period during which he acted, and congenial to the character of the nation over which he ruled. Henry IV. of France would be to mankind at large a far more dazzling and captivating monarch, but he would not have so well suited the meridian of the people of England, nor to the exigencies of the present age. His religion was not sufficiently serious; his morals were not austere enough to rebuke and confound the licentious infidel, the living pestilence of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The sober dignity of the English court, while George III. threw round it the mantle of his domestic affections and well-regulated life, represented truly the characteristic virtues of this grave and manly nation, and powerfully encouraged and sustained them. He did not, like some of his predecessors, since the revolution, imprison one queen nor neglect another, nor lavish public honours on foreign prostitutes, nor offend the matron purity of English wives and mothers, by the dull indecency of monotonous and tasteless vice. We mean George III. no dishonour, we do him none, by saying, that the familiar name of John Bull was applicable specifically to the whole constitution of his mind and habits. He was an Englishman all

over—but an Englishman worthy to be at the head of a nation of English. There are none of our kings to whom, in respect of masculine force and moral excellence, he may not be advantageously compared

Micat inter omnes

Julium sidus.

It was the glory of our lamented monarch to shun the weak examples of those who preceded him; but, it will, we trust, be the pride of his successors, to follow the just example he has left.

Much might be said on another point, on which we forbear to expatiate: *vis.*, the political and personal relations which existed at sundry periods of the late reign, between George III. and some distinguished branches of his illustrious family. We do not omit to mention these circumstances, because of their insignificance to the subject before us, but because their importance, as matter of history, does not appear to us to outweigh the indelicacy of of bringing them under discussion at an hour like this.

There was another circumstance which tended, during the course of this year, to disturb the domestic felicity of the royal family, which was the duel between the duke of York and colonel Lennox. It was the first instance of a prince of the blood in England being challenged by a subject; and although his majesty could not but admire the spirit and intrepidity of his illustrious son, yet being an enemy himself to the practice of duelling, which is generally founded upon principles of false honour, he could not, without regret, behold a member of his own family, setting an example so contrary to the principles of social order, and subversive of the laws of the country. The circumstances of this memorable duel are already

before the public, and although his majesty was satisfied that his royal son had fulfilled the punctilios of honour, yet, viewing it not only in a moral but political point of view, he could not but visit the act with his most marked and positive censure. Indeed the shock which it occasioned to his feelings as a father and a man was so great, that it was one of the principal reasons of his absenting himself from the celebration of his birth-day, which, on account of his recovery from his alarming indisposition, was celebrated with unusual splendour. At the ball which was given on that day, a circumstance however occurred, connected with the recent duel, which destroyed all the harmony of the assembly. Notwithstanding what had recently happened, and the established etiquette that no persons should stand up at country dances, who had not danced a minuet, colonel Lennox appeared in the circle with lady Catherine Barnard. This was not perceived by the prince of Wales until he and his partner, the princess royal, came to the colonel's place in the dance, when struck with the impropriety, he took the hand of the princess just as she was about to be turned by the colonel, and led her to the bottom of the dance. The duke of York and the princess Augusta came next, and they turned the colonel without notice or exception. The duke of Clarence with the princess Elizabeth came next, and his royal highness followed the example of the prince of Wales. The dance proceeded, however, and colonel Lennox and his partner danced down, but when they came to the prince and princess, his royal highness led his sister to her chair by the queen. Her majesty thus addressing herself to the prince, said, "You seem heated, sir, and tired." "I am heated and tired, madam," said the prince, "not with the dance, but with

dancing in such company." "Then, sir," said the queen, "it will be better for me to withdraw, and put an end to the ball." "It certainly will be so," said the prince, "for I never will countenance insults given to my family, however they may be treated by others." At the end of the dance, her majesty and the princesses withdrew, and thus the ball concluded. The prince, with his usual gallantry, afterwards explained to lady Catherine Barnard the reason of his conduct, assuring her ladyship that it gave him much pain to be under the necessity of subjecting a lady to a moment's embarrassment.

It was with the deepest concern that some slight symptoms of a distaste for music appeared in his majesty towards the close of the year 1789, and this concern arose from it having been one of the symptoms which his majesty displayed of his previous illness. It was only four or five evenings prior to his being taken ill, after a private concert, his majesty went up to Dr. Ayrton, and, laying his hand on the doctor's shoulder, with his usual benignity—"I fear, sir," said his majesty, "I shall not long be able to hear music; it seems to affect my head; and it is with some difficulty I bear it." Then, turning round, he softly ejaculated "Alas! the best of us are but frail mortals."

Every symptom, therefore, which had any reference to his former distressing malady, could not but be regarded by his attentive and affectionate family with the most serious alarm. Fortunately, however, for them and the nation, his majesty returned to his usual amusements and pursuits, and by judiciously abstracting himself from a too close attention to state affairs, his mind resumed its usual tone and vigour, which were soon to be called into action by the portentous aspect of the times.

All fears of a relapse having subsided, the remuneration to the physicians was finally adjusted. To Dr. Willis, sen., was given an annuity of 1500*l.* for twenty-one years; to his son 650*l.* per annum during life; to which were added 30 guineas per visit to Windsor, and 10 guineas per visit to Kew, to each of the other physicians—which, to sir George Baker, who was longest in attendance, amounted to about 1,800 guineas.

The peace and general happiness which Great Britain enjoyed at the close of 1789, whilst abroad, war and anarchy were stripping the diadem from the brow of royalty, must have been highly consoling to every true-born Englishman. The history of the country, abstractedly speaking, had little at this period to gratify curiosity, or to interest the more turbulent passions; and the only unpleasant sensation which can accompany the contemplation of England at this period, results from the reflection that this envied calm, this luxurious tranquillity, has since been unfortunately, perhaps rashly, interrupted.

On the 21st of January, the British parliament was opened, as usual, by a speech from the throne; but no debate of any importance took place on any of the subjects mentioned in it.

This was the first time of his majesty going in state to parliament since his recovery, and on this occasion he became the object of a violent attack on the part of a lunatic, who, on his majesty passing the corner of Carlton-house threw a large stone into the coach; he was immediately apprehended and taken to Mr. Grenville's office, where he underwent an examination by the attorney-general. The examination lasted four hours, and he proved to be the same person who wrote a libel against his majesty, and stuck it on the whalebone in the court-

yard, St. James's, about a fortnight previous to this unwarrantable attack. He signed his name John Frith, lieutenant of the first battalion of royals. He was committed to Newgate, but it being ascertained that he was a lunatic, he was disposed of in the usual way, an indictment having been previously preferred against him, in order to give his friends an opportunity to prove his lunacy.

His majesty, in every period of his life, shewed himself a friend to toleration, and encouraged by this noble trait in his majesty's character, the dissenters used every endeavour to obtain a repeal of the test-act, which, they conceived, bore so hard upon their civil rights. Encouraged by the small majority which appeared against them on Mr. Beaufoy's motion for the repeal of the test-act in the preceding session, the dissenters renewed their application in the sessions of 1790. Posterity will regard with a smile the ardour with which the contending parties supported the dispute on so trivial an occasion. The dissenters left scarcely any earthly means untried to procure the repeal of the laws, which were reduced to a mere dead letter, and the penalties of which were never exacted; and the party of the church supported with equal vehemence two obsolete statutes, enacted in a state of society very different from the present, and the enforcement of which probably will never be required in any circumstances of the British nation. The press overflowed with publications on the fruitless controversy; every dissenting preacher who could wield a pen, conceived that his duty to God and the higher interests of society, irresistibly impelled him to the promulgation of his sentiments, and probably flattered himself with unfading laurels from the depth of his researches, or the excellence of his composition; while an equal number of redoubtable champions from amongst

the inferior clergy, promised themselves, with equal confidence, the immediate attainment of the highest dignities in the church; by their zeal and ability displayed in the cause.

His majesty did not look upon the attempts of the dissenters with an indifferent eye, and he did not declare his hostility to the ends which they had in view, but only to the means which they employed to obtain them; and in this view of the case it must be confessed, that the proceedings of the dissenters were amongst the most injudicious, that ever were adopted by any party, civil or religious, upon any occasion. Their ardour to obtain their object only served to magnify it in the eyes of their opponents, and gave it a consequence, which it did not deserve. Many of their publications were highly imprudent and censurable. The example of France was mentioned with an approbation too unqualified, and which it was supposed increased his majesty's displeasure more than any other circumstance which was brought forward. Some of the most vehement of the partisans, in the true spirit of fanaticism, confidently prophesied, that the great Millennium was at hand, which was to effect the final overthrow of all religious establishments. They proceeded further, and appointed committees and associations for the effecting of their purpose; and some of these committees even recommended to the great body of dissenters, the withholding of their votes at the general election from such members of parliament as should shew themselves adverse to their interests.

The apprehensions of the clergy were scarcely less ridiculous than the predictions of the dissenters. The old exclamation of the church being in danger was once more renewed; counter associations were formed, and resolutions passed with the most formal gravity, asserting the danger of the state, should a permis-

sion be issued by the legislature, to common soldiers or excisemen, to exercise their respective employments without the solemn aid of the sacramental test.

Notwithstanding the powerful eloquence of Mr. Fox, who entered rather more into the abstract principles of the question, than the practical tendency of it, the motion for the repeal was lost by a majority of eighty-nine.

The result of this memorable contest did not tend by any means to alienate the affections of the people from their sovereign; on the contrary, the failure was attributed solely to political intrigue, and the overpowering influence of the episcopacy, than to any decided objection which resided in the royal breast to the intended measure. His principles of toleration were well known, but his majesty certainly declared that the attempt of the dissenters was, not to say the least of it, ill-timed. Every innovation or change in the religious establishments of the country, were to be regarded, at this period, with the most jealous eye. The combined efforts of atheism and infidelity were tearing the crown from the brow of a neighbouring monarch—the seeds were sown in the country, and it was necessary to destroy them ere they began to germinate. Partial changes of the constitution—the transitions of power—the struggles for empire—the agitations of faction—or even the convulsions of intestine war, are all of them events involving more or less of evil; but they have their measure and their boundary, and sometimes their compensation. But the attempt to dethrone God from the government of the world, is an evil of which no thought of man can calculate the amount. To the verge of this evil we were brought, together with the rest of Europe, by the moral contagion of French principles, especially in the first years of the revolutionary era. The source of Britain's

safety through that menacing period, was, under Heaven, the moral and religious example of the king. Whilst all around was vacillating, and Europe was sinking fast into the vortex—while a vain and visionary philosophy was divorcing man from his Maker, and writing her decrees with the blood of her votaries—Great Britain's king, armed with intrepid moderation and steady purpose, pursued his right honest course, through good and evil report. He rose early; visited first the house of God, and after the regular despatch of business, divided the day between manly amusements, frugal repasts, and pure, peaceable, and domestic delights. Even when worn down with age, and bereaved of sight, he yet preserved a heart unchanged—a moral courage unsubdued. Still his duty to his people came next to that which belonged to his Maker and his Saviour; still his family felt his tender care, and yielded him his usual solace.

He at length survived all that had troubled his public or his private thoughts. An anticipation of felicity, no longer to be disturbed held him in a quiet and heavenly abstraction. An exemption from pain and sickness rewarded him for the temperance of his early years. The storms are past, and his character, like a Pharos, through the melancholy space that divided him from his people, illumined that distant shore where the tempest-driven may hope at the last to be anchored in peace.

It was in the early part of 1790, that his majesty took so warm an interest in the affairs of the royal academy, and to which he was induced by the resignation of sir Joshua Reynolds of the office of president of that institution. At one of the meetings of the council of the royal academy, a letter was read, addressed to sir Joshua, in consequence of sir William Chambers's interview with the king, in an early stage

of the business, when, amongst other flattering marks of the sovereign's favour, the letter expressed, that his majesty would be happy in sir Joshua continuing in the president's chair.

Sir Joshua was, however, firm in his intention of resigning the presidentship, and his refusal to accede to his majesty's request was highly respectful. He says in his letter to sir William Chambers, "That he inferred his conduct must have been hitherto satisfactory to his majesty, from the very gratifying way in which his royal pleasure had been declared; and if any inducement could make him depart from his original resolution, the will of his sovereign would prevail; but that flattered by his majesty's approval to the last, there could be nothing that was not perfectly honourable in his resignation." Although the will of royalty seldom meets with opposition, yet, in this instance, his majesty was above the petty feeling of resentment, and, at a future period, he cheerfully granted his permission to sir Joshua to resume the chair, when the office of president was pressed upon him, by a deputation from the academy.

The fondness of the king for hunting has been often the source of ridicule, but his general motive for undertaking that manly exercise, was not generally known. He was naturally inclined to corpulency, and he therefore imposed upon himself the severest exercise, in order to check a too phlethoric habit, which he was accustomed to say, was the foundation of the severest maladies to which the human frame is subject. In the pursuit of his favourite amusement, he always expressed himself happy in being accompanied by his subjects of every rank, and he never failed to find out and converse with all those who appeared to be daring riders.

On one occasion, a gentleman residing in the vicinity of Beaconsfield, who was celebrated

as one of the boldest riders of his day, was unable to restrain the impetuosity of his horse, and he rode past his majesty, at full speed, actually throwing the dirt into the face of royalty. The prickers hastened immediately after this Nimrod of the field, who had so grossly infringed the etiquette of the royal hunts, but coming suddenly to a very dangerous leap, they all stopped, and allowed the gentleman of whom they were in pursuit, to enjoy the pleasure of the chace unmolested. His majesty, much as he admired bold riding, despised on the other hand, any individual who, owing to his pusillanimity, took a circuitous route, in order to avoid a leap. On the occasion above alluded to, when his majesty saw the prickers suddenly halt, he guessed the reason, and having observed that the gentleman had cleared the leap, he determined to shame his attendants, and putting his hunter upon his mettle, he boldly cleared the leap, to the astonishment and discomfiture of many, who were ashamed not to follow the example of his majesty, and who placed a greater value upon their necks than upon the honour of following the king.

His majesty scarcely ever forgot an individual, who had rendered himself conspicuous for his riding, and we have a strong instance of the retentiveness of his memory on those occasions in the person of Richard Owen Cambridge, with whom his majesty frequently entered into conversation, and with whose lively and sagacious remarks, he was much delighted. Towards the close of this gentleman's life, his majesty met him one day riding gently down a declivity; on which he observed, with his wonted good nature, "Mr. Cambridge, you don't ride so fast as you used to do." "No, please your majesty," replied Mr. Cambridge, jocosely, "for now I am going down the hill."

If we look narrowly into the character of his

late majesty, it is difficult to decide, whether he has become more exemplary as a father or as a husband. In the latter, indeed, he stands high in the scale of excellence, for he manifested nothing but tenderness, affection, and indulgence. His heart was susceptible of every domestic pleasure, for it was in the circle of his family, divested of the pomp and cares of royalty, that the character of his majesty shone in its most resplendent light. As a father he was severe, but his severity was tempered with judgment, and in the exercise of his parental authority, he never lost sight of the dignity of the man, nor of that consideration which is due to human frailty in general. He was affectionate in its real sense, but he was wholly exempt from that weakness which youth too easily works upon, and which ultimately leads to the establishment of those faults which a more rigid discipline would have eradicated. The following anecdote of his personal kindness to his children, will sufficiently demonstrate this trait of the royal character.

Amongst the many follies, which fashion has introduced, and to which its votaries attach themselves with all the zeal and enthusiasm of the anchorite to his rosary, not one was in itself more ridiculous, than that which appeared to have seized the female part of the community, about the year 1790, and which at last infected one of the female branches of the royal family, the princess Elizabeth. This mania, or hobby, was denominated the *Porcelainmania*, and it consisted in collecting old jugs, antique teapots, and indeed every kind of earthenware, which was distinguished for its antiquity, or, which rendered it still more valuable, its ugliness. It may be easily supposed, that all the collectors, connoisseurs, and amateurs of vertu, were immediately upon the alert, exploring the receptacles of broken pots, and the shops of dealers

in marine stores, for some of these hidden treasures, which, in a little time, were destined to be promoted to a place in the cabinets of royalty. A collector of great celebrity, be it understood, of celebrity in imposing counterfeit articles for genuine ones, or in persuading his dupes that the valuables they possess are not genuine, for that the original itself is in his possession*, having heard that her royal highness was seized with the mania, considered it a most eligible opportunity to gain the royal favour, by collecting a few of the frangible valuables, then so much in requisition. He set out upon his tour, and in a short time he had collected an unique assemblage of antiques, the value of some of which was greatly enhanced by the want of a handle or a spout. This selection was no sooner complete, than a communication was made to the princess of the depot of these valuables, and an invitation was given to inspect them. It was accepted, and the princess was in raptures with the view of such a multitude of unparalleled curiosities. But still greater were her raptures, when she was requested to accept of a few of the most rare and ancient, which were carried home in triumph, to the great joy of both the donor and the receiver. By degrees the stock of the princess was increased beyond her most sanguine hopes, but no acknowledgment would the collector receive, he being amply rewarded by the condescension with which he was treated by the illustrious person-

age. At length, however, the cloven foot of this most disinterested and considerate virtuoso, began to display itself, for having been informed that a situation was likely to fall vacant of about 1,000*l.* a year, he packed up a most precious cargo of antique japan, amongst which were two most curious cracked caudle-cups from the depository of some celebrated lady of a Chinese mandarin, and the princess was astonished at this inestimable addition to her store. The princess, who was by no means bereft of gratitude towards this generous purveyor of delft and china, insisted upon making him some remuneration, but he informed her, that pecuniary reward was not the object of his ambition, but at the same time he presumed to mention to her royal highness the expected vacancy, and the princess lost no time in hastening to her father, urging her request, that her valued friend might succeed to the expected vacancy. The king could not refrain from laughing, for he was too deeply read in the knowledge of man to be ignorant, that the collector, in his gifts of jugs, tea-pots, and caudle-cups, had some other view than merely to please the taste of her royal highness. After much importuning, his majesty granted the request, adding—"Well, well, go along, your china merchant must be paid for his mugs and jugs; but let me tell you, that the price is unconscionable."

As the patron of literature, the dedications to the king were very numerous; the first book

* The collector alluded to, is the person who realized 5000*l.* by a fraud upon a celebrated baronet of great opulence, more noted for his eccentricity than for his sense. The baronet was in possession of an original painting of Corregio, and the collector having once waited upon the baronet with a Dutch clock, which possessed, according to report, the mechanical power of playing a hundred tunes of its own composition, beheld this beautiful Corregio suspended in the drawing-room. He eyed it for some minutes with intense application, and on a sudden declared it to be one of the finest copies he ever saw of that celebrated picture. "Copy," exclaimed the baronet, "what do you mean by that—it is the original picture." "O dear," said the collector, "you are much mistaken, sir, you have been grossly deceived—the original is in my possession, and you are welcome to examine it." The baronet was astonished, and the affair ended, at last, in the baronet parting with his original, and taking the collector's copy, giving at the same time an enormous sum for his supposed *unique*.

ever dedicated to him, was in the year 1740, when he was only two years old, by Dr. John Free, who, by permission, or rather by desire of the prince of Wales, prepared a work intended for the instruction of the young prince, called, *A History of the English Tongue*, with the author's intended dedication to his royal highness prince George. About twenty-four years afterwards, the same learned person dedicated another work to his majesty, *The Analysis of Man, or the Difference between the Reasonable and the Living Soul*, which was preached as a sermon before the university of Oxford.

Amongst the various literary works dedicated to the king, we may enumerate Gough's edition of *Camden's Britannia*, which runs in the following terms: "To the patron of arts and sciences, the father of his people, George III., who has condescended to encourage researches into antiquity, this work, the earliest account of his kingdom, is dedicated by his most dutiful subject, Richard Gough."

Two of the finest dedications are that which is prefixed to bishop Horsley's edition of *Newton's Works*, to his majesty, in Latin, and that of *Adams on the Globes*, to the king, in English. The latter was written by Dr. Johnson, who received for it the present of a handsome weather-glass.

The learned bishop above mentioned, spoke in very high terms of his majesty's taste and judgment, particularly on the subjects of mathematics, mechanics, and natural philosophy. Several years after the presentation of Dr. Horsley to the king, he had a closet audience, at which his majesty reminded him of his edition of Newton, and at the same time gently reproved him for not having published the life of that illustrious philosopher; of whom Johnson, who urged the doctor to write it in English, said, that "if he had lived in ancient

Greece he would have been worshipped as a divinity."

His majesty, in his literary pursuits, was always extremely attentive to works on divinity. He was particularly conversant in the works of bishop Andrews, Jeremy Taylor, and other great fathers of our protestant church. Discoursing with a young divine one day, his majesty asked him if he was acquainted with the writings of the authors above-mentioned, when the young man replied, that he had principally employed himself in reading the divines of more modern times; to which the king, with great energy, observed, "Sir, there were giants in those days."

A strict compliance with the etiquette of the court, requires that the allusion to the king on certain points, should be omitted. An instance of this occurred about the time of his recovery in 1789, when Dr. Horsley, bishop of St. David's, preached a sermon before the royal humane society, of which the king was patron; and the bishop a vice-president, on the principle of vitality in man, as described in the holy scriptures, and the difference between true and apparent death. When the sermon was published, which is designated by Mr. Nicholl's as a most admirable, philosophical, and appropriate discourse, and which being printed by desire, run through several editions, was admired by the learned world, and resorted to by the able divines who have since preached for that institution, a doubt arose in the mind of the bishop, which is contained in the following letter to Mr. Nicholls:

"I very much doubt the propriety of mentioning the king in an inscription, without express leave, though it may seem to be a compliment. I rather suspect that the etiquette of the court is against it. On the other hand, it may seem strange to inscribe to a society of which he is patron, without taking notice of him.

Perhaps the readiest way of getting over the difficulty will be not to inscribe at all, which, indeed, I should not have thought of, but in the apprehension that if it has been done by former preachers (of which I am ignorant) my omission of it might receive a wrong construction. If the sermons have not been inscribed before, it will not be necessary that I should introduce a new practice; if the practice is established, I must, however, inquire before we venture to use the king's name,"

The inscription was found to be contrary to courtly etiquette, and was therefore omitted; but the society took a more special way of marking their loyal affection to their patron, by an appropriate address to his majesty, which was dictated by the venerable prelate.

A few years before his majesty was afflicted by blindness, he held a conversation with a gentleman of extensive literary acquirements, and the subject of which was the history of England. His majesty observed that he had long wished to see such a work properly executed, and that he had mentioned it to several noblemen and others, with a view of getting some persons of eminent talent to engage in the undertaking. It had been proposed to Dr. Robertson, and likewise to lord Lyttleton, but neither of those writers appeared willing to embark in a concern of that magnitude, though all the assistance of government was freely offered, and would, beyond all doubt, have been amply granted, for the purpose of enabling the historian to have completed his design in a manner equally creditable to himself, and serviceable to the country. At this time his majesty stated the outline of his plan, which was, to have all the materials, printed and manuscript, collected, and the extracts made with the greatest care, by persons employed at the public charge; and that from these collections, aided by all the

help of our public libraries, with all lights afforded by foreign writers, especially those in the northern parts of Europe, whose productions have been too heedlessly passed over, the historian should draw up his connected narrative, subject to the revision of different persons appointed to compare his performance with the authorities which he professed to have followed. Such was the project which his majesty suggested for filling up a chasm in English literature; but as the conversation is rather long, and embraced many topics, connected with this scheme, the sketch now given must necessarily be considered as very defective, and affording only a limited and imperfect view of the monarch's ideas on this great national desideratum.

Although his majesty encouraged the noble art of painting, yet his patronage was by no means indiscriminate. Indeed he was sometimes accused of ill-judged economy on that subject, and that he was not always disposed to foster a rising genius, unless recommended by some celebrated professor of the same art. This, however, may be attributed more to a degree of diffidence which his majesty felt, and to a want of confidence in his own judgment, rather than to a backwardness to bestow his patronage on those men, who are the ornament of their country. The following anecdote respecting Opie, is illustrative of this trait in his majesty's character.

Opie was a humble Cornish youth,

Inured to mountains and the ocean flood,
but smitten with the fire of genius, he sought the metropolis, as the great emporium of the arts and sciences, and where the enthusiasm of youth led him to suppose, that the warmest patronage would be bestowed upon him. Having finished one of his metropolitan efforts, the report of its excellence was carried to Buckingham-house, and, *by desire*, he was ordered to

take it thither. He obeyed the mandate, and his majesty purchased the picture for ten guineas, at the same time saying, "that he could not *afford* to give more for it." Opie, as many other persons would think in a similar situation, thought less of the ten guineas than of the superlative honour which had been conferred upon him; but having mentioned the circumstance to his friend, Peter Pindar, the arch-satirist declared that the sum was much too little, and that it was a specimen of his folly to part with so exquisite a painting under twenty guineas, especially to one, who, whatever he might *say*, could afford to give it him. On this, Opie determined to make another application to Buckingham-house for the additional ten guineas, from which step he was dissuaded by Dr. Walcot. Under the influence, however, of poverty he made the attempt, and received—nothing.

A very curious and ludicrous circumstance occurred when Zoffany was engaged as a portrait painter for the royal family. When he commenced his first picture of the royal family, there were ten children. He made his sketch accordingly, and attending several times, he went on with finishing the picture. Several obstacles, however, presented themselves to the prosecution of the design. At one time, his majesty was engaged in business of a most important nature—at another, her majesty could not possibly attend him—at another, some of the princes were unwell—and when these obstacles were removed, some of the princesses had their paraphernalia to adjust for an approaching drawing-room, and therefore, in reason, it could not be expected that they could devote their time to Mr. Zoffany. The completion of the picture was consequently delayed, when, to the great discomfiture of the artist, a messenger arrived with the information that

another prince was born, and, therefore, that room must be found for him in the picture. This was no easy task, but still it was accomplished, with some difficulty. The artist now considered his groupe to be perfect, and after numerous delays, he beheld his work proceeding to completion—but, on a sudden, another messenger arrived, with the announcement of a birth of a princess, and room must be also found for her on the canvass. A new arrangement was, therefore, absolutely necessary—some of the figures must be wholly obliterated, to give a proper effect to the grouping. This was the work of many months, but the mortification of the artist knew no bounds, when just as he had completed it, a polite letter was handed to him from one of the maids of honour, informing him that another prince was born, for whom a place was to be found. The artist turned his painting to the wall, and desisted, for a time, from the finishing of it. His majesty, surprised at the delay, sent to the artist, to inquire the cause of it, when the answer was, "that as there appeared to be no bounds to the increase of his majesty's family, the artist did not know what bounds to give to his canvass, for it was already full." "And so is my quiver," said his majesty, "and therefore I must be happy."

It is well known that his majesty bestowed his patronage on Bacon the sculptor, and this patronage arose from the archbishop of York, who, having at that time resolved to place a bust of his majesty in the hall of Christ-church, Oxford, was anxious to have it executed by Mr. Bacon, who was at this period in high repute amongst all the virtuosi of the kingdom; and indeed his reputation was established as a sculptor in consequence of the exhibition of his statue of Mars, soon after he had received the first gold medal for sculpture from the royal academy.

On Mr. Bacon being presented to his majesty, he instantly consented to sit, and he was so well pleased with the execution of the work, that, added to the fame he had already acquired, ensured to him the royal patronage, and an order from the king to prepare another bust to be presented to the university of Gottingen.

When this artist was modelling the bust of his majesty, the king asked him if he had ever been out of the kingdom; on being answered in the negative, the king said, "I am glad of it, you will be the greater honour to it."

When Mr. Bacon exhibited his statue of the Thames, he paid a very fine compliment to her majesty, but we will not at present inquire whether or not it was paid at the expense of truth. Her majesty having expressed her admiration of the work, inquired why he could not avoid making it so frightful a figure. He replied "that art could not always effect that which was within the reach of nature, the union of beauty and majesty."

The year 1790 closed with a most portentous aspect. It was the era of revolution, and revolutions effected by the populace are especially to be dreaded. However right in their sentiments, or honest in their intentions, the multitude cannot be temperate in their actions, or wise in the direction of their irresistible efforts. To prevent such evils is always laudable, but there is only one infallible mode of preventing revolutions, and that is, by making them unnecessary. The statesman who would preserve his country from the calamities, which at this time threatened to plunge one of the fairest portions of Europe into anarchy and confusion, must be instructed by the example; he must, by the most rigid economy, guard against that fatal derangement of public credit, which, at this eventful crisis, plunged France into an abyss of misery; and a prudent attention to the griev-

ances of the subject, should, in all cases, anticipate complaint. Whatever the constitution of modern society and the improved state of human knowledge have obviously rendered obsolete, ought not to be too tenaciously retained; and it should be remembered, that while reform proceeds from the governing powers themselves, it may still be conducted with prudence.

On the 23d of November, 1790, his majesty went to the house of peers, for the purpose of opening the new parliament; on which occasion, the right honourable Henry Addington, the present lord Sidmouth, was chosen speaker of the house of commons.

It was at this period of his life, that his majesty's enthusiasm for agricultural pursuits was at its height, and the introduction of the Merino breed of sheep into this country, furnished him with an opportunity of conferring essential advantages to the agricultural interest, by a liberal disposal of his flocks. He appeared to pride himself on the name of a farmer, and, although the sale of his stock exposed him to the petty cavil and contemptible sneers of the Pindaric tribe, he nobly pursued the course which he had selected for himself, and he was accustomed jocosely to say, "that his only fear was, that he might one day appear as a bankrupt in the gazette."

It was not until the year 1791, that his majesty took Windsor great park into cultivation, although the little park had been stocked with sheep and cattle as early as 1785.

We have already briefly alluded to the letters written by his majesty under the name of Ralph Robinson, and inserted in the *Annals of Agriculture*. These letters were seven in number, all of considerable length, and displaying a most profound knowledge of the subject. The style of these letters is at once perspicuous and dig-

nified, and are equally honourable to the monarch and the man.

The first letter commences with the observation, that the publication of the *Annals of Agriculture* must, in the course of time, be highly beneficial to the country, and to the improvement of agriculture in general, to which his majesty added, "Therefore, it seems incumbent on all who think they have materials on this interesting subject, worthy of the inspection of the public, to transmit them to you, who, if you view them in that light, will give them a place in that estimable work."

In the progress of this first letter, his majesty declared that his object was to explain the beneficial system of husbandry, adopted by a Mr. Duckett, on a farm at Petersham, which he had long requested, the modesty of that gentleman preventing him from laying it before the public. "I will attempt," said he, "to describe his mode of cultivation, rather than it shall remain unnoticed in your annals."

This letter was inserted by the secretary, the Rev. Arthur Young, in the ensuing number, expressing, at the same time, a wish that Mr. Robinson would enter more minutely into the subject; and in the ensuing March, 1787, the first letter being written in the January of that year, the king again addressed him, saying, "The early attention you have given to my attempt of laying before the public, through your useful channel, Mr. Duckett's system of agriculture, fully entitles you to expect from me a compliance in the request you have intimated." We will not at present enter further into an exposition of these valuable letters, but they are well worthy of perusal by all those who make the science of agriculture their study, or who wish to be initiated into one of the best systems of modern farming.

But it was not only to agriculture, but to

botany that his majesty at this time turned his attention. He bestowed particular pains upon the botanic garden at Kew, which at this period exhibited, perhaps, the finest collection of plants in Europe. The head gardener was, at this time, the scientific Aiton, and several persons were employed by him to collect the rarest plants from Africa—in which arduous undertaking he was assisted by the skill and experience of sir Joseph Banks, and other zealous promoters of science; by whose endeavours, the collection was in a little time so much increased, that it was found necessary to erect a new house one hundred and ten feet in length, for the reception of African plants alone. A house has since been erected for plants from New Holland, and the Cape; other smaller houses were also built for plants of various descriptions, on ground purchased by his majesty, and added to the botanic garden.

Whilst the king was pursuing his improvements at Richmond and Windsor, he displayed a degree of self control, trifling in itself, but honourable to him, both as a monarch and a man. Having observed to colonel Price that he had an intention of ordering a particular tree to be taken down, he in a rapid manner asked the colonel's opinion, as if he expected an entire acquiescence in his idea. The colonel, however, respectfully ventured to say that he was of a different opinion. "Aye!" rejoined his majesty, somewhat hastily, "that's your way; you continually contradict me." "If your majesty," replied colonel Price, "will not condescend to listen to the honest sentiments of your faithful servants, you never can hear the truth." After a short pause, the king very kindly laid his hand upon the colonel's shoulder, adding, "You are right, Price! the tree shall stand."

The year 1791, opened with an auspicious aspect to human nature, and particularly to the promotion of the political interests of great Britain. In two of the greatest kingdoms of Europe, new constitutions were formed, which promised to put an end to the reign of feudal barbarism and anarchy in the one, and of more polished despotism in the other. But the year had not elapsed, when the prospect was overcast; tempests and storms arose, which overturned the new fabric, in the one kingdom, before it was completed—and in the other, after staining the public councils, as well as the character of the nation with multiplied atrocities, subverted one form of government after another, which still continues to agitate the unsettled mass, and to threaten with further changes, further distress, and ruin.

In a word, nations as well as men were at this time set at variance with each other, by a new principle of division and discord. A war was commenced on new ground, to which the great potentates of Europe, after various windings and tergiversations, were obliged to return—a war, not of ambition or conquest—not for this or that family—nor yet for this or that creed in religion—but a war of the rights of men against the established authority and prerogatives of sovereign princes.

We have merely entered upon the foregoing remarks, as introductory of the great contest which was shortly to take place upon the theatre of Europe, which overthrew the majority of its legitimate states, and which for a time threatened to bring ruin and anarchy upon Great Britain.

To return, however, to the private life of his majesty; his birthday was celebrated, on the 4th June with uncommon splendour; the whole of the royal family were present, and his majesty, who was in the highest spirits throughout

the whole of the day, received the compliments of the numerous nobility with his accustomed affability and condescension.

He appeared to be highly pleased with the following ode written by James Pye, esq.; on which occasion he declared, that so long as the etiquette required that birthday odes should be performed, he was glad to find, that they had also acquired some claim to the title of poetry, which had not been the case during the preceding laureateship.

Loud the whirlwind rag'd around
That shook affrighted Britain's shore,
In peals of louder thunder drown'd
That mingled with the wintry roar;
Dreadful amid the driving storm
The gliding meteor's horrid form
With transient gleam illum'd the air,
While through December's murky night
Refulgent with unwonted light,
The lived flashes glare.

But see! the radiant Lord of Day
Now northward rolls his burning car,
And scatters with victorious ray
The rage of elemental war.
To rest the troubled waves subside,
And gently o'er the curling tide
Young Zephyr leads the vernal hours,
Adorns with richest dyes the vale,
And fragrance wafts on ev'ry gale
From June's ambrosial flowers.

O, may no lowering gloom o'ercast
Th' auspicious morn to Britain dear,
Or Eurus check with envious blast
The promise of the rip'ning year!
Or should some transitory cloud
Awhile th' ethereal splendour shroud;
Soon shall the sun his stream renew—
Soon shall the landscape smile around.
With more luxuriant verdure crown'd,
And bloom with livelier hue.
Exulting in her prince rever'd,
Whose mild parental virtues grace
The sacred throne by Glory rear'd
On Freedom's adamantine base;

While Albion pours the festive strain,
Responsive to her choral train

The muse enraptur'd joins the throng,
Proud that a grateful people's praise
Echoes the votive verse she pays,
And consecrates her song.

It appears to have been his fate to suffer from the mental derangement of individuals, in a most extraordinary manner; a singular instance of which occurred in August, 1791. His majesty was passing in his carriage through the park to St. James's, when a gentleman dressed in black, standing in the Green-park, close to the rails, within a few yards of Mr. Copley's pavilion, just as the carriage came opposite where he stood, was observed to pull a paper hastily from his pocket, which he stuck on the rails, addressed to the king, throw off his hat, discharge a pistol in his own bosom, and instantly fall. Though surrounded with people, collected to see the king pass, the rash act was so suddenly perpetrated, that no one suspected his fatal purpose till he had accomplished it. He expired immediately. In his left hand was a letter, addressed "To the Coroner, who shall take an inquest on James Sutherland."

This unfortunate gentleman was judge advocate at Minorca during the governorship of general Murray, with whom he had a law-suit, which terminated in his favour. The general, however, got him suspended and returned home. This, and the failure of some application to government, had greatly deranged his mind. He was very genteely dressed, but had only two-pence and some letters in his pockets; the letters were carried to the secretary of state's office. The body was conveyed to St. Martin's bone-house.

This circumstance made a deep impression on the feelings of his majesty, and he desired that every care should be taken of the unfortunate suicide, and when he was informed of his

death, he exclaimed, "May Heaven forgive him."

On the 3d of September, their majesties and the princesses set off for Weymouth, and during the journey, the singular circumstance occurred of the carriage of the princesses taking fire, owing to the velocity with which they travelled. This accident obliged them to perform the remainder of the journey in the carriage appointed for the equeries.

His majesty passed his time at Weymouth in a manner similar to that of his preceding visit, but rather more domestic and private. He took particular pleasure in examining the manner in which the Wiltshire and Dorsetshire shepherds manage their flocks, and he was so well pleased with it, that he ordered Mr. Kent to apply to Mr. Davis, of Worningsham, to procure a shepherd for his Merino flock. This circumstance gave rise to a fine display of humanity and mercy in his majesty. The shepherd was a man from Brixton Deverill, of the name of William Daphney. The king and general Goldsworthy had frequent conversations with the shepherd, with whose simple manners, acuteness, and dialect, they were frequently entertained. It happened, however, in the course of time, that some sheep were missing from the royal flocks, and the spoliations were traced to poor Daphney. His majesty having been consulted about prosecuting him, replied, that he had been himself the innocent occasion of poor Daphney's crime. That if he had suffered him to remain on the Wiltshire hills, he had continued harmless as his sheep. That he had been seduced to his ruin by a gang of unprincipled villains that then infested the neighbourhood, who would corrupt an angel. That he should be discharged, but not prosecuted. The poor fellow, overpowered by royal consideration and clemency, exclaimed, "I will never

cease to serve such a master. I can no longer do it with my crook, but I can with a musket." Upon which he entered into the army, and his destitute wife was transferred by their majesties into a calling of decent subsistence.

Mr. Davis, above alluded to, had been for many years the truly respectable and intelligent steward in the family at Longleat. The following interesting occurrence took place during his majesty's stay at Weymouth.

Mr. Davis having called upon some of the king's attendants at Gloucester-lodge, he was informed that it would be expected that the king should be made acquainted with the circumstance of his visit. His majesty in consequence appointed a place of interview. After some casual observations, his majesty alluded to the recent death of the late marquis of Bath, who is supposed to have been more than any other subject in the royal confidence. On observing that "God Almighty had never made a more honourable man," he was overpowered by his feelings, and retired to compose himself. On returning, he inquired about the improvements which were in progress during his visit at Longleat, and then took leave with his accustomed politeness.

It was during the residence of the royal family at Weymouth, that the marriage of the duke of York with the princess Frederica of Prussia took place at Berlin. The ceremony took place in the evening of the 1st of October. About six o'clock, all persons who were of princely blood assembled in gala in the apartments of the dowager queen, where the diamond crown was put on the head of princess Frederica. The generals, ministers, ambassadors, and the high nobility, assembled in the White-hall.

Immediately after it struck seven o'clock, the duke of York led the princess his spouse, whose train was carried by four *dames de la cour*, pre-

ceded by the gentlemen of the chamber, and the court officers of the state, through all the parade apartments, into the White-hall. After them went the king, with the queen dowager; prince Lewis of Prussia, and the reigning queen; (the crown prince was absent by indisposition;) the hereditary prince of Orange, with princess Wilhelmina; prince Henry, third son to the king, with the hereditary the stadtholdress, his aunt; prince Wilhelmina of Prussia, with princess Augusta; the duke of Weimar, with the spouse of prince Henry of Prussia; the reigning duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, with the hereditary princess of Brunswick.

In the White-hall, a canopy was erected of crimson velvet, and also a crimson velvet sofa for the marriage ceremony.

When the young couple had placed themselves under the canopy, before the sofa, and the royal family stood round them, the upper counsellor of the consistory, M. Sack, made a speech in German. This being over, rings were exchanged, and the illustrious couple kneeling on the sofa, were married according to the rites of the reformed church. The whole ended with a prayer; and twelve guns placed in the garden fired three rounds, as the benediction was given. The new-married couple then received the congratulations of the royal family, and they returned in the same order to the apartments, where the royal family, and all persons present, sat down to card tables; after which the whole court, the high nobility, and the ambassadors, sat down to supper.

The supper was served at six tables—the first was placed under a canopy of crimson velvet, and the victuals served in gold dishes and plates. Lieutenant-general Bornstedt and count Bruhl had the honour to carve, without being seated.

The other five tables, at which sat the gene-

als, ministers, ambassadors, all the officers of the court, and the high nobility, were served in other apartments.

Those who did the *honneurs* at these tables were—at the first, prince Sacker, minister of state. At the second, general Mollendorf. At the third, count Jinckenstein, minister of state. At the fourth, count Schulemburg, lieutenant-general and minister of state. At the fifth, major-general Bishoffswerder.

During supper, music continued playing in the galleries of the first hall, which immediately began when the company entered the hall.

At the desert, the royal table was served with a beautiful set of china, made in the Berlin manufactory.

Supper being over, the whole assembly repaired to the White-hall, where trumpet, timbrel, and other music was playing, the *flambeau dance* was begun, at which the ministers of state carried the torches. With this ended the festivity.

The new couple were attended to their apartments by the reigning queen, and the queen dowager.

This circumstance of the duke of York's marriage, obliged the royal family to shorten their visit at Weymouth, and they returned to Windsor at the close of October.

The duke and duchess of York arrived at Dover on Friday the 23d of October, after a most unpleasant passage of nine hours, and on the following Sunday they were received in form at Buckingham-house by the royal family.

It being considered a matter of state necessity that their royal highnesses should be re-married according to the forms of the church of England, the ceremony took place on the evening of the 23d, at which time the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, and the bishop of London, came to the queen's-house.

The archbishop was attended by two pages and his train-bearer; and the lord chancellor was in his full robes, with the great seal of England carried before him, and his train borne. At half-past eight o'clock, the prince of Wales, and the duke and duchess of York, and the duke of Clarence, entered the queen's-house, and were immediately conducted to her majesty's drawing-room. The bishops and the chancellor were in a separate room near three-quarters of an hour, preparing the form of the register. At nine o'clock, the bishops and the lord chancellor having intimated that they were ready, they were admitted into her majesty's drawing-room; upon which the procession, attended by the officers of the chapel-royal, proceeded to the grand saloon. Books of the marriage ceremony were delivered to all the royal family by the archbishop of Canterbury. At the request of the archbishop, a table was placed in the saloon, which was formed as an altar, and was narrow enough for the archbishop to reach across, and join the hands of the royal pair. At half-past nine, the ceremony was performed by the archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the bishop of London, his majesty standing at one end of the altar, and her majesty at the other extremity; the duke and duchess of York in the centre; the archbishop opposite to them, and the lord chancellor standing behind him; the prince of Wales next to the duchess of York, and the duke of Clarence next to the duke of York. The princesses were seated on chairs at a distance from the altar. As soon as the ceremony was finished, the duchess of York went to his majesty, and attempted to kneel, which his majesty with some difficulty prevented; and, raising her in his arms, affectionately embraced her. The certificate of the marriage was then signed by their majesties, the prince of Wales, the duke of Clarence, and the lord chancellor.

After which, the bishops and the lord chancellor retired, and immediately left the queen's house. The royal family returned to her majesty's drawing-room; and, at a few minutes before eleven o'clock, the duke and duchess of York went to York-house, accompanied by the prince of Wales and the duke of Clarence, an elegant supper having been provided by direction of his royal highness the duke of York, for their entertainment. The prince of Wales gave the duchess away. The duchess was dressed in white satin, with tassels and fringe of gold, and a number of diamonds; in her head dress she wore feathers, and three brilliant pins presented to her by the king, on the royal visit on Tuesday.

Prince Augustus, the fifth son of his majesty, was at this time at Rome, where he was received by his holiness with the most distinguished respect. Indeed an honour was paid to this prince which had never yet been conferred upon any protestant prince; as on his arrival in the holy city; he was immediately informed by cardinal de Bernis, that by the express desire of the holy father, apartments were ordered to be prepared for him in the Vatican. His royal highness, however, politely refused the hospitable compliment, alleging the necessity he was under of making Rome his residence for a very short duration.

It must have been a curious sight to behold a protestant prince receiving an address from the dominican friars of Rome, which actually took place two days after his arrival, on which occasion an elegant Latin oration was pronounced by father le Pole, to which his royal highness returned a polite answer in the same language. Several other religious orders also addressed his royal highness, each of whom, as their several sentiments dictated, added to their complimentary congratulations, alternate allusions to the poli-

tical situation of Great Britain and France at that particular juncture.

During the residence of his royal highness at Rome, a circumstance took place which excited some very unpleasant sensations in the royal family, and particularly in the breast of his majesty, and this was the marriage of his royal highness with lady Augusta Murray. This marriage being in direct opposition to an act of parliament, known by the name of the royal marriage act, and the union not having been sanctioned by his majesty in council, nor any notice given by his royal highness to the privy council of his intention to marry, it was subsequently set aside by an act of parliament framed expressly for the purpose, thereby bastardizing the issue.

On the 4th of January, 1792, a melancholy accident occurred, in consequence of his majesty, the queen, the prince of Wales, the duke and duchess of York, the duke of Clarence, and six of the princesses, visiting the theatre in the Haymarket. The curiosity on this occasion was so great, in consequence of it being the first appearance of the duchess of York in public, that indescribable confusion and mischief ensued, and Mr. Smith, a gentleman belonging to the India-house, lost his life. The crowd had assembled at an early hour; in consequence of which, the street-doors were soon opened to the lobbies. As soon as the lobby leading to the pit was full, by some means or other the door was shut: numbers continuing to assemble, who wished to get to the pit, supposed that the door had not been opened, as it was only five o'clock: when the usual period arrived for opening, finding the door shut, they grew exceedingly tumultuous, calling out, "open the door! open the door! or down with the house!" The advanced guard arrived about this time, soon followed by the king's guard,

who attempted to make way, and drive the people from the doors, but in vain; they were dispersed from their posts; some forced into the highway, and some under the carriages; and, in the general confusion, several lost their bayonets and side-arms. At six o'clock, the pit door was opened a second time; nor, till this period, would the multitude be convinced that the door had been opened before, much less that the house was full. The unfortunate Mr. Smith was injured in the first attempt to get in; at the confined entrance he fell down, when the mob closed and trampled upon him.

His majesty on being informed of the disastrous accident which had occurred, said, with his wonted humanity, "It grieves me much that my amusement should have been obtained at the cost of the life of one of my subjects." He ordered that an inquiry should be instantly made into the state of the family of the deceased, and finding that they were totally dependent on the situation which he held for support, he generously ordered that an annuity should be paid them from his privy purse.

The clouds which had been collecting for some time in the political horizon, burst in the commencement of 1792, into a formidable and destructive storm: and the wild and ferocious contest which was forseen between the selfishness of despotism, and the unbridled excesses of popular frenzy, deluged with blood the fairest plains of Europe.

Few of the nations of Europe have displayed more spirit and energy of character, than the Swedes. The reclaiming of their liberty under the justly celebrated Gustavus Vasa was a noble exertion, and considering the darkness and general ignorance of the age in which it was effected, it was a wonderful event. Under the conduct of Gustavus Adolphus, Sweden stood forth as the bulwark of the Protestant cause,

and even under the frantic and false heroism of Charles XII., the nation was respected, while the wild projects of its king were held up as the mark for censure or for ridicule.

It would be irrelevant to expatiate in these Memoirs, on the events which ultimately led to the assassination of the king of Sweden, in the month of March, 1792, nor would it have been deemed necessary to make even the slightest mention of them, had not the event, above alluded to, opened to us an opportunity of exhibiting our late patriotic monarch in a new and more exalted character.

When his majesty was informed of the assassination of the king of Sweden, by Ankerstroem, he made particular inquiries of a diplomatic character, conversant with the circumstances, with a view to obtain an accurate knowledge of the particulars connected with the perpetration of that diabolical act. This gentleman, in giving the relation to his majesty, thought it necessary to introduce some cautionary observations, on the danger of a sovereign exposing his person too incautiously, in times when the revolutionary rage of France had already extended its contagion to all other countries. But here the king cut the speaker short, by saying, "Nay, sir, I must differ from you there; for if there be any man so desperate to devote his own life to the chance of taking away the life of another, no precaution is sufficient to prevent him altogether from making the attempt; while a system of constant precaution against such dangers, they being in a thousand instances to one wholly imaginary, converts the life of a person, so guarded, into a scene of perpetual restraint, anxiety, and apprehension. No, sir, the best security that a man can have against such dangers, is to act openly and boldly as a man. If an attack be made upon him, his best chance of escaping, is

to meet it like a man : but if he should fall under it, why, sir, he will fall like a man !”

On the 1st of August, 1792, preparations being now rapidly making for the Chinese embassy, Mr. Dudley Adams had the honour of exhibiting to the king a pair of the most magnificent globes ever executed in this country. Five thousand eight hundred and sixty-four stars of different magnitudes were inserted on the celestial globe, distinguished by gold, silver and different coloured foils, on a beautiful blue enamel. The terrestrial globe was also accurately drawn, and beautifully illuminated. The two globes were mounted in gold and silver, and elicited much admiration and praise from his majesty.

It was fashionable, amongst small wits, to laugh at the Chinese embassy, which proceeded in the autumn of this year, under lord Macartney ; but the private instructions of that nobleman, drawn up in a great measure under the king's personal inspection, manifest a depth of thought, and a patriotic feeling, highly honourable to the illustrious personage who is said to have first started the idea of such an undertaking.

In these instructions it was justly observed that a greater number of English than of any other European nation had been trading to China, but without that support which other nations enjoyed, from the circumstance of these having religious missionaries admitted at the court of Peking, men who, in the midst of their cares for the propagation of the christian faith, were supposed not to have been unmindful of the views and interests of their respective countries ; whilst the English traders remained unaided, and, as it were, unavowed, at a distance so remote as to admit of a misrepresentation of the national character and importance ; and where too their occupation was not held in that esteem

which might be necessary to procure them security and respect.

Under these circumstances the king felt that it became both his dignity and his character to extend his paternal regard to those his distant subjects, even if the commerce and prosperity of the nation were not concerned in their success, and to claim the Chinese emperor's protection for them, with that weight which ought to be due to the requisition of one great sovereign by another.

With strict propriety, the king also suggested that a free communication with a people, perhaps the most singular upon the globe, amongst whom civilization had existed, and the arts been cultivated, through a long series of ages, with fewer interruptions than elsewhere, was well worthy of being sought by the British nation, which had seen with pleasure, and with gratitude applauded, the several voyages undertaken already by his majesty's command, and at the public expense, in the pursuit of knowledge, and for the discovery and observation of distant countries and manners. It was added, however, that in seeking to improve a connexion with China, no views were entertained except those of the general interests of humanity, the mutual benefit of both nations, and the protection of commerce under the Chinese government.

In the letter also which his majesty directed to be written to the Chinese monarch, he hinted to that Tartarian despot, that the natural disposition of a great and benevolent sovereign, whom Providence had seated upon his throne for the good of mankind, was not solely to watch over the peace and security of his dominions, but to take pains for disseminating happiness, virtue, and knowledge, amongst his subjects, and extending the same beneficence, with all the peaceful arts, as far as he might be able, to the whole human race.

There was one subject in which his late majesty always took particular interest, and this was the establishment of the Bible societies. Indeed, it is not certain whether the origin of those societies is not to be traced to that memorable dictum of our late gracious king, which can scarcely be too often repeated; that, "he hoped to see the day when every subject of his empire would be able to read his Bible."

This was a saying which ought to be written in letters of gold, and it would be the proudest epitaph which could ornament his tomb. Under his august patronage, the untutored savage has been taught, from that holy book, the blessings of Christianity; and the light of the Gospel has illumined the dark and cheerless mind of the heathen. It is, indeed, a pleasant task to dwell on the character of such a monarch. There are amongst us many too young to trace out the long series of trials, difficulties, and commotions, the furious and resistless tempests through which our departed sovereign had to grasp the helm of British affairs, and to conduct the vessel of the state, during the sixty years of his eventful reign, and yet may not be able from their own experience to justify the feelings of veneration, and the ascriptions of praise that are offered to his memory. But what we ourselves do not know, our fathers have told us; and such are the excellencies of our late sovereign that crowd upon the recollection of those who knew him early, and who knew him long, that all men unite in the belief, that he was not one of those men, who are praised only after death. The splendour of his character, as it shewed itself early, so it shone out to the last with undiminished glory. He was not one of those innumerable persons whose latter life extinguishes the hopes which their early years had raised; nor was his that kind of supplementary virtue which is offered in age as an

atonement for the follies and vices of youth. When Rome saw her second emperor on the throne, she was filled with the most fearful forebodings of his future reign. The first exertions of his power were put forth to the slaughter of his subjects. The most sacred rites of nature were violated, and nothing was heard through the city of Rome but cries and lamentations, scarcely a house escaping without a murder. But when the fervour of youthful impetuosity subsided, and he was treading on the confines of maturer judgment, the latter part of his life was as much distinguished by its benignity and moderation, as the former had been for its violence and cruelty; so that it has been said, if we could separate Octavius from Augustus—his youth from his manhood—he would be one of the most faultless princes in history. Now contrast with Augustus the character of George III.; mark the piety that distinguished the solemnity of his coronation, when he had scarcely completed his twenty-second year, and trace him through all the labyrinths of his long and important reign, to the age of three-score years and ten; and then let the most fastidious moralist declare, if a single blot can be discovered to stain the purity of his character. No, the reputation of our late lamented king was not made up of broken parcels of upright actions. His was not that deciduous laurel of fame, of which the verdure in its spring is bright and gay, but which time had stolen from his brow. Integrity and uprightness had interwoven themselves with the whole texture of his life. He was virtuous in youth, and he thus became venerable in age,—so that it may be truly said, his hoary head was a crown of glory; and, indeed, if the hoary head is to be a crown of glory, it must be found in the way of righteousness.

In looking over the histories of preceding

kings, it is difficult to fix upon any one who may be brought even into a remote comparison with George III. In separate parts of our late sovereign's character, it were not impossible, perhaps, to find some who equalled, and others who excelled him. As a man of letters, he was probably, not equal to the great Alfred; nor was his temper more mild and amiable, perhaps, than that of our sixth Edward; nor his chastity more eminent than that of Henry VI. But in that rare combination of qualities which fitted him for so high and awful a station, as governor of this great and free country, he stands unrivalled. The happy contrivance of our popular constitution, prevents that display of individual disposition, for which opportunity is afforded by absolute monarchies, in which kings govern without ministerial assistance; yet where shall we look through all the pages of British history, for such an example of the union of private and public virtue? It is this rare union, which appears to give the character of our lamented sovereign its decided preeminence; so that he has taken a flight beyond all the kings that preceded him, as well in the glory, as in the duration of his reign. He was not permitted, indeed,—so dark, so mysterious, so profound are the plans of the Lord God Almighty—he was not permitted to witness that full and gorgeous splendour which burst upon the close of his long and stormy reign. It pleased the Most High to visit him, for the last nine years of his valuable life, with one of the most awful calamities incident to human nature—a calamity deplored throughout his vast empire, and we wept at the mournful spectacle of royalty shrouded under a permanent and hopeless eclipse.

But we are consoled with the remembrance that in his brighter hours he held communion with the King of Kings, and, therefore, we are

assured, that from the shades which encircled his throne at the end of his reign, he has, at length, now emerged into the brightness of heavenly and eternal splendour.

His sun, indeed, did set behind a cloud; but it still sheds over us a soft and mellowed light. His glory will be undiminished when he rises from the tomb, on the resurrection morning, in a firmament without clouds, and over which night never extends her melancholy dominion. Though the death of our beloved and revered monarch is past, let his character not be forgotten. We are in much danger of viewing the life of kings as something entirely above the ordinary scenes of human action. We consider it as the peculiar mode of existence of a distinct species of mankind, who live and act with manners incommunicable, who are rather the beholders than the partakers of human nature, and from whom, therefore, but little instruction can be derived, suited to the concerns of common life. They are shewn to the public but on few occasions, and then it is in such awfulness of grandeur, that we feel ourselves compelled to applaud, what, perhaps, if we knew it, we could not esteem. But it was otherwise with our late venerable king. He was not one of those characters who owed the honours that are paid them, to the ornaments which make them glitter on the theatre of public applause, and which throw such a lustre round the faultiest characters, that common observers are blinded into admiration. Nor did he, like the monarchs of the east, derive his dignity from his concealment. His was not that merit which attracts most admiration at a distance. The more narrowly it was inspected, the more sincerely was it esteemed. When he withdrew from the public and official duties of his station, and threw off the cumbrous ornaments of royalty, his retirement was not the

soft and pleasurable asylum of luxurious sovereignty, accommodate to the elegance and refinement of a royal voluptuary, but a calm retreat where, to the splendour of a throne, he brought the milder and the sweeter radiance of domestic virtue : and while he was establishing an illustrious and permanent reputation abroad, by every act of firm and vigorous resistance to that infuriated despot of modern times, who threatened to overwhelm all Europe, as it were, with an irresistible torrent of conquest, and who burned to build his own kingdom on the ruins of every other, our late lamented monarch was anxious to establish a solid glory at home, by zealously labouring to raise the depressed tone of virtuous practice. He set the example and it was followed by his country, so that in his reign an insensible, but decided change was wrought in the character and morals of the nation, and his example was the source from which all the subordinate classes of society drew whatever was estimable in their habits, their actions, and their characters. Every testimony concurs to prove that the fond and affectionate father, the tender and unalterable husband, the firm and sincere friend, the invariable early riser, the diligent economist of time, the strict appropriator of every hour to its employment, his sobriety, his temperance, his moderation, the correct and easy facetiousness with which he adorned society, and above all his devotional and consistent piety, both in his closet and in his family, that piety which added to all his moral virtues, a grand and authoritative dignity, which rendered his upright character more august, and by which, to the decorations of his palace, he joined the majesty of the temple; these, with every other exemplification of the christian graces, were traits in the character of our departed, and now beatified sovereign, which are remembered only to add

value to the loss, to aggravate regret for that which no longer can be possessed, and to deepen sorrow for that which, though it may be united, can never be recalled. In the history of his reign, he will be a model for future sovereigns, but in the excellencies of his life, he will be a model for all ; and let us remember, that to imitate his virtues, will be the best proof of our remembering them.

The sentiment expressed by his majesty, that he wished every child in his dominions to read the Bible, did not escape the lips of one who was deficient in the duties, either of public or private life. It was not the zealous expression of one who sought to make atonement for his own neglect of the scriptures, by the recommendation of them to others. He read the Bible himself, and while he was recommending the perusal of that holy book by his public expressions, he was shewing the influence of its principles in his private practice ; so that whilst we must all admit that the conduct of a public character ought, in no degree, to lessen or increase the obligation of his dictates, yet we all feel more keenly the advice of that man whose instructions are enforced by the consistency of his life.

In the year 1792, the principles of the French revolution had spread over all Europe, and they were secretly undermining the most steadfast of its thrones. In this country, treason and rebellion were lurking in secret. The most seditious writings were circulated to an extent hitherto unknown, and all the vigour of government was required to check the evil, which was daily and hourly increasing. The ambition of a conqueror has its bounds, and his views, when known, cease to be dangerous ; but a planned system of anarchy, which tends to dissolve all political society, abounds with ruin to the nation. and all sovereigns, for the interest of their sub-

jects, cannot use too much expedition to check its progress, and to stifle the evil in its birth. People would pay too dearly for the fatal error of believing that their interests can be separated from those of their sovereign's. It is necessary, therefore, to destroy this error as soon as possible, and to chastise as soon as they appear, those factious men, who conspire against the happiness of all countries. This was the principle on which his late majesty was resolved to act during the prevalence and popularity of the revolutionary mania, and supported by a vigorous ministry, he issued the following memorable proclamation :

GEORGE R.

Whereas divers wicked and seditious writings have been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, tending to excite tumult and disorder, by endeavouring to raise groundless jealousies and discontents in the minds of our faithful and loving subjects, respecting the laws and happy constitution of government, civil and religious, established in this kingdom ; and endeavouring to vilify and bring into contempt the wise and wholesome provisions made at the time of the glorious revolution, and since strengthened and confirmed by subsequent laws, for the preservation and security of the rights and liberties of our faithful and loving subjects : and whereas divers writings have also been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, recommending the said wicked and seditious publications to the attention of all our faithful and loving subjects : and whereas we have also reason to believe that correspondences have been entered into with sundry persons in foreign parts, with a view to forward the criminal and wicked purposes above-mentioned : and whereas the wealth, happiness, and prosperity of this kingdom do, under divine Providence, chiefly depend upon a due submission to the laws, a just confidence in the integrity and wisdom of parliament, and a continuance of that zealous attachment to the government and constitution of the kingdom, which has ever prevailed in the minds of the people thereof : And whereas there is nothing which we so earnestly desire, as to secure the public peace and prosperity, and to preserve to all our loving subjects the full enjoyment of their rights and liberties, both religious

and civil : We, therefore, being resolved, as far as in us lies, to repress the wicked and seditious practices aforesaid, and to deter all persons from following so pernicious an example, have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to issue this our royal proclamation, solemnly warning all our loving subjects, as they tender their own happiness, and that of their posterity, to guard against all such attempts which aim at the subversion of all regular government within this kingdom, and which are inconsistent with the peace and order of society ; and earnestly exhorting them at all times, and to the utmost of their power, to avoid and discourage all proceedings tending to produce riots and tumult : And we do strictly charge and command all our magistrates in and throughout our kingdom of Great Britain, that they do make diligent inquiry in order to discover the authors and printers of such wicked and seditious writings as aforesaid ; and all others who shall disperse the same : And we do further charge and command all our sheriffs, justices of the peace, chief magistrates in our cities, boroughs, and corporations, and all other our officers and magistrates throughout our kingdom of Great Britain, that they do, in their several and respective stations, take the most immediate and effectual care to suppress and prevent all riots, tumults, and other disorders, which may be attempted to be raised or made by any person or persons, which, on whatever pretext they may be grounded, are not only contrary to the law, but dangerous to the most important interests of this kingdom : And we do further require and command all and every our magistrates aforesaid, that they do from time to time, transmit to one of our principal secretaries of state, due and full information of such persons as shall be found offending as aforesaid, or in any degree aiding or abetting therein ; it being our determination, for the preservation of the peace and happiness of our faithful and loving subjects, to carry the laws vigorously into execution against such offenders as aforesaid.

Given at our court at the queen's-house, the 21st day of May, 1792, in the thirty-second year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

This proclamation was received by the nation with peculiar satisfaction, and in a short time no less than three hundred and forty-one addresses, including almost all the counties, cor-

porations, cities, boroughs, and towns in Great Britain, were presented to his majesty. It was also about this period that his majesty received the following confidential letter, from the king of France, declaratory of the sentiments which he entertained of the line of conduct which his British majesty had adopted during the stormy period of the revolution.

Paris, May 1.

Sir, my brother,

I send this letter by M. Chauvelin, whom I have appointed my minister plenipotentiary at your majesty's court. I embrace this opportunity to express to your majesty, how sensible I am of all the public marks of affection you have given me. I thank you for not having become a party to the concert formed by certain powers against France. From this I see you have formed a better judgment of my true interests, and a more correct opinion of the state of France. Between our two countries new connexions ought to take place. I think I see the remains of that rivalry which has done so much mischief to both, wearing daily away. It becomes two kings who have distinguished their reigns by a constant desire to promote the happiness of their people, to connect themselves by such ties, as will appear to be durable, in proportion as the two nations shall have clearer views of their own interests. I have every reason to be satisfied with your majesty's ambassador at my court. If I do not give the same rank to the minister whom I have sent to your's, you will nevertheless perceive, that by associating in the mission with him M. de Tallyrand, who, by the letter of the constitution, can assume no public character, I consider the success of the alliance in which I wish you to concur with as much zeal as I do, as of the highest importance. I consider it as necessary to the stability, to the respective constitutions, and the internal tranquillity of our two kingdoms; and I will add, that our union ought to command peace to Europe.

I am your good brother,

LOUIS.

In the month of August, the royal family paid another visit to Weymouth. On their route they partook of some refreshment at the episcopal palace at Salisbury; at which place they ex-

amined the cathedral, which had recently undergone a thorough repair. His majesty, who was partial to sacred music, expressed himself much pleased with the new organ, which was a gift of his own, as an inhabitant of that diocese, when residing at Windsor.

It was during his majesty's visit to Weymouth at this time, that the circumstance occurred, which forms the subject of one of the embellishments of this work. In the early part of September, the royal family rode to Dorchester, with the intention of visiting the new jail; his majesty having, at this period, devoted much of his time to the study of prison discipline, with the philanthropic view of ameliorating the distress of the prisoner. A farmer of the name of Pitfield, with a numerous family, had been incarcerated above seven years in Dorchester jail, for a debt incurred by a lawyer's bill. On his knees the poor prisoner presented a petition to his majesty, who was so much affected with his sufferings, and the apparent distress of his family, that he tendered them some immediate relief, and subsequently paid the whole debt, amounting to 220*l.*, and thereby restored an honest but unfortunate man, to the bosom of his family, and to the joys of liberty.

Amongst the many noble actions of his late majesty, which it has been our pride to record, not one stands more conspicuous for dignity and liberality of sentiment than what was displayed in the case of the widow of the Pretender, who died in 1784. This lady was born princess of Stolberg, in Germany, and on the demise of the Pretender, she quitted Florence, and settled at Paris. In that city she lived as the countess of Albany, but in her drawing-room there was a chair of state as queen of Great Britain; her plate was ornamented with the British arms, and all her domestics gave her the title of majesty. In the year 1792, the

horrors of the French revolution, and the terrible massacres which accompanied it, rendered her residence at the French capital both unpleasant and unsafe, and she judged it prudent to retire to that kingdom of which she claimed to be queen dowager. It was on this occasion, that the conduct of our venerable monarch displayed itself in the most amiable light. The wife of the Pretender, who, in the support of his supposed claims, had carried war and bloodshed into the kingdom, not only found an asylum in that very kingdom, but also every protection from the head of that royal family, from whose brow every attempt had been made to tear the diadem. The mind of his majesty was above the mean and petty prejudice of visiting the sins of another upon the head of the innocent, however nearly allied they may be to each other; and the errors of the husband were forgotten, when the suffering wife craved assistance from the benignant monarch.

The king beheld with regret at this period, that, not only French principles were becoming prevalent at his court, but that the manner of dress, and the changes of fashion, had all a reference to French modes. He saw the great injury which the trade and commerce of this country would suffer by this growing partiality for French fashions, and he resolved to check the rage at his own court. The first person who received a rebuke from his majesty was the earl of Carlisle, who appeared one day at court with a splendid French dress, on ob-

serving which, his majesty addressed him, saying, that he should be happy to see him at court, but not in his French suit. Our nobility took the hint, and British ingenuity bore away the triumph.

But if we direct our attention to the amelioration of the public morals, we find ourselves not less beholden to his late majesty. It is well known that those focusses of intrigue, masquerades, were fashionable and frequent before his majesty's accession. After that event, many years passed without any masquerade being given. Not a single masquerade was ever given by his majesty, and those which are now offered to the public are barren of praise and profit, and only frequented by the dissolute and the profligate. It was a remark of his majesty's, conversing once of the circumstance of the king of Sweden being killed at a masquerade, "that there was no evil in the world without its attendant good, for he was certain that masquerades would be henceforth discontinued on the continent*, and the morals of the people consequently improved."

Previously to his majesty's accession, the court drawing-room was held in the evening, but as day-light was not so favourable to intrigue, his majesty ordered that all drawing-rooms should be held in the middle of the day. Formerly it was by no means uncommon to see a royal mistress presiding, either publicly or covertly, over the court assembled on such occasions; but his late majesty never insulted public de-

* His majesty was in some respects right in his conjecture, for masquerades were immediately prohibited in the northern states of Europe. Being at Petersburg, during the visit of the present duke of Gloucester to that city, a masquerade was given at the palace of Peterhoff in honour of the British prince, but we were all strictly enjoined not to appear in masks, nor in any variety of character. It was computed that above 5,000 persons were present at this fête, every one wrapped in a black domino, which gave the assemblage the appearance of a crowd of mourners at a funeral, and which, added to the stiffness and solemnity of the Russian, threw a chilling gloom over the scene, so different from the usual noise and mirth of an English masquerade. The intrigue, however, which could not be carried on under the mask, was carried to perfection in the retired haunts, and the gloomy groves, which surround the palace.

cency by the installation of a mistress—no French courtesan ever obtained the secrets of state from the lips of royalty, and betrayed them to the enemy of Britain and mankind*. Nor let it be forgotten that his majesty found the custom of card-playing, with other games, &c., on Sundays, so inveterately established amongst his nobles, that nothing less than his own personal example and authoritative injunctions, could have restrained and reformed it. It is not generally known, that his majesty commissioned his brother, the then duke of York, to visit a certain lady of the highest rank, who held assemblies on a Sunday evening, and, under the express command of the king, *not to play*; when the cards, therefore, were offered to him and parties were forming for him, he announced *the orders of his sovereign, as to himself*. The inference was easily understood by the company, and the duke did not see the orders of the sovereign disobeyed.

In short, if morals be the strength and prosperity of a people, which principle we hold to be undeniable, and the truth of which is sanctioned in every page of history, then has his late majesty, during his reign, contributed essentially to invigorate and aggrandize Britain. His exemplary behaviour in his family—his punctuality and piety at public worship—his orderly attendance on the institutions of religion, have distinguished him as a prince. Would to God there were no worse husband, father, master, landlord, neighbour, in these realms, than George III. proved himself to be in every period of his life.

And, be it remembered, that it is to these qualities that Britain owes her existence at this

moment as an independent state. French intrigue would, to a certainty, have succeeded in embroiling the country in a civil war; had not our king been a man in whose integrity the nation might confide. Had he been one of those characters of which too many disgrace the higher ranks, we might have been now a department of France.

If then our present freedom—if the honours due to integrity, piety, and morals, in high station—if correct conduct as a man, and polished manners as a gentleman—if the spirit of encouragement to national manufactures—if agricultural pursuits are benefits to the country—if attention to the welfare of the public at large—if the utmost care for the honour of the greater departments of the administration, which most immediately come in contact with the people, and for the religious establishment of the country, may claim our gratitude to our departed monarch, that gratitude will not be withheld by any Briton: that gratitude is due for benefits received by this nation from the personal conduct of its sovereign, but infinitely more so to that supreme Ruler of the Universe, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice.

In January, 1793, bishop Watson published a sermon, entitled, *The Wisdom and Goodness of God in having made both Rich and Poor*; with an appendix, respecting the then circumstances of Great Britain and France. A strong spirit of insubordination and discontent was at that time, prevalent in Great Britain: the common people were, in every village, talking about liberty and equality, without understanding the terms. The bishop thought it not improper to endeavour to abate this revolutionary ferment, by informing

* We allude, in this instance, to a certain northern autocrat who had a bait laid for him by Buonaparte, in the person of a beautiful French woman, into whose arms he soon surrendered himself, and also the secrets of his state. It was not known, for a long time, by what means Buonaparte got possession of the secrets of the Russian cabinet, until the sudden flight of the fair inconstant furnished the clue.

the understandings of those who excited it. The king at a public levee complimented him in the warmest terms, in the hearing of the then lord Dartmouth, on the conciseness, clearness, and utility of this little publication. On this occasion, when the king was praising what the bishop had written, the latter said, "I love to come forward in a moment of danger." His majesty quickly replied, "I see you do, and it is a mark of a man of high spirit."

At another levee, soon after the same prelate had been making some remarkable experiments on gunpowder, he happened to be standing next to the duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance, and the duke informed his majesty that they were indebted to the bishop for a great improvement in its fabrication. The bishop was pleased to say, "that he felt ashamed of himself, inasmuch, as it was a scandal in a christian bishop to instruct men in the mode of destroying mankind." The king answered, "let not that afflict your conscience, for the quicker the conflict, the less the slaughter."

We must now direct our attention, for a short time, to the great political events which were at this time passing on the stage of Europe, and which ultimately had such a direct influence on the life of George III.

In the commotions of empires, as in the great convulsions of nature, the fatal effects are seldom confined to the source of the calamity: the adjacent territories become gradually involved in the vortex of destruction, and the most distant regions where the evil operates are sometimes not less seriously affected, than those which are more centrally situated. It was not difficult to foresee, that the French Revolution, so novel in its principles, so stupendous in its operation, opposed by power, and supported by violence, must produce consequences of the

utmost importance to the state of Europe in general; and whoever considered attentively the state of parties in this country in general, at this period, could not want any thing to convince him, that England was shortly to become a principal in this disastrous contest.

The British nation towards the close of the year 1792, might be considered as divided into three great political parties: the tories, or devoted advocates for the royal prerogative; the whigs, or constitutional asserters of the rights of the people; and the republicans. The first were, perhaps, the most numerous, the latter the most active party. From the first dawn of the French revolution, it was decried by the tories, but their disapprobation, which was originally manifested by sullen doubts, by equivocal observations, and by attempts to palliate and excuse the errors of the old government, was tempered, in some measure, by a principle of revenge; they considered the French court as the authors of the American revolution, and could not but secretly rejoice, that it should itself experience the humiliating effects of principles which it had promoted and encouraged. The whigs, on the contrary, sincerely and openly rejoiced in the emancipation of a great people, and they saw, with increasing satisfaction, the British constitution the avowed model on which the first assembly of France professed to establish their new form of government; in this sentiment they were joined by the republicans, but with this difference, that as the former regarded with apprehension and regret, every instance of excess and intemperance into which the gallic patriots were betrayed, the latter contemplated them with increasing pleasure, as so many advances towards that constitution of government, which alone they considered as perfection.

It was, however, the revolutionary principles

of France, supported and diffused by no common literary talent in this country, which had nearly proved fatal to the person of our late monarch, and to the crown of this kingdom. In the latter end of the year 1790, Mr. Burke published his elaborate attack upon the French revolution, and his work gave rise to several very able answers from literary persons of the first reputation. Amongst the most noted of the replies, were those by Mr. Christie and Mr. (now Sir James) Mackintosh. The former of these gentlemen gave an accurate and laboured collection of facts; the latter a defence, founded on all the great abstract principles of government, in brilliancy of style not inferior to the production of his great antagonist, and in correctness, superior to it. None of the replies to Mr. Burke, however, were expected with more eagerness, or read with more avidity, than that of Mr. Thomas Paine, the author of the celebrated pamphlet, entitled *Common Sense*, which was published in America previous to the declaration of independence, and which is generally supposed to have greatly assisted in the promotion of that measure. Though distinguished neither for profundity of research, nor for elegance of diction, Mr. Paine possessed the peculiar art, like the present Corypheus of the radical community, of addressing the people in a plain, forcible, and interesting manner. As he had the advantage of being a spectator of many of the transactions he had undertaken to defend, his facts were, in general, more correctly stated, than those of his opponents, and his work, which was entitled the *Rights of Man*, was generally regarded as a complete answer to Mr. Burke; and as the first part was written with more modesty than the second, it was read and approved by many whose sentiments in general, were by no means favourable to republicanism. The success of Mr. Paine's first part

of the *Rights of Man*, encouraged him, shortly after, to produce a second; but this, instead of a defence of the French revolution, proved to be no other than a virulent attack upon the British government. It was answered by several intelligent and judicious writers, and Mr. Plowden in particular, and others of the whig party, exposed and reprobated its fallacy. It may be doubted whether the measures of government relative to its suppression were the wisest that could be adopted. To have commenced an immediate prosecution against the author and publisher, appeared both the simplest and most effectual mode of proceeding; whereas, by issuing a royal proclamation, evidently pointed against the *Rights of Man*, and which was ludicrously called, "an advertisement by authority," it may well be questioned, whether the circulation of the pamphlet was not in reality promoted.

The king, in his character of sovereign, now became the object to which all the efforts of revolutionary partisans were directed. His "divine authority" became the subject of ridicule, and the pillars on which his throne was fixed, were shaken to the foundation. The most treasonable papers were circulated in the very precincts of his palace, and he had once the unpleasant sight before him, of himself burning in effigy. A host of silly scribblers inundated the country with their seditious pamphlets, in all of which his majesty, in his abstract relation as sovereign, was the chosen object of their attack. In the mean time, the writings of Mr. Paine circulated with undiminished rapidity among the lower classes of the people, and the success of the French arms in the Netherlands inspired the English republicans with unusual temerity. The most unguarded language was indulged in, and though the party was but small, yet it was loud; while on the other hand,

every rash and intemperate expression was magnified by the tories into the rumour of a dangerous conspiracy, and a general alarm was excited throughout the nation. The terms jacobin, republican, and leveller, were indiscriminately applied to all who did not devotedly enter into the views of this faction; and from the violence of the tories on the one hand, and of the republicans on the other, the moderate party found their influence and their credit almost entirely annihilated, and the voice of reason and truth was no longer heard amid the clamours of contending parties.

The contagion of association now spread throughout the nation, and the experiment at least proved that the great majority of the nation was decidedly against an alteration of the established government; and that notwithstanding the influence of Paine's writings, the actual number of republicans was much smaller than had been represented.

The administration, in the mean time, became alarmed for the safety of the country, but whether it was real or affected, is a question which must be left to the discussion of the party writers on both sides. Whatever, however, were its principles or its object, it was thought sufficient to justify two extraordinary measures, which are considered only as legal in cases of actual invasion, or a rebellion existing within the kingdom. The parliament, which had been prorogued to January, 1798, was convened to meet within fourteen days after the date of the proclamation for its assembling, and the militia was called forth and embodied at the same time.

Posterity will doubt whether the most prudent use was made of that loyal spirit, which was manifested on this occasion in every quarter of the kingdom. It would have afforded a wise administration the happiest opportunity

of conferring lasting benefits on the sovereign and the nation.

Indeed the situation of the sovereign was at this period, one of the utmost peril and perplexity, but the firmness of his character supported him through all his trials, and enabled him ultimately to triumph over those who were secretly undermining the throne which he filled in such a noble and undaunted manner.

Such was the political state of affairs, internal as well as external, at the meeting of the parliament, which took place on the 13th of December, 1792. The speech from the throne intimated, that his majesty had judged it necessary to embody a part of the militia, and to call the parliament together within the time limited for that purpose. It stated as the causes of these measures, the seditious practices which had been discovered, and the spirit of tumult and disorder shewn in acts of riot and insurrection, which required the interposition of a military force in support of the civil magistrate. The industry, it added, employed to excite discontent on various pretexts, and in different parts of the kingdom, appeared to proceed from a design to attempt the destruction of our happy constitution, and the subversion of all order and government; and that this design had evidently been pursued in connexion and concert with persons in foreign countries.

His majesty asserted, that he had carefully observed a strict neutrality in the present war on the continent, and had uniformly abstained from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France; but that it was impossible for him to see without the most serious uneasiness, the strong and increasing indications which had appeared there of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries, to disregard the rights of neutral nations, and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, as

well as to adopt towards his allies the States General, measures which are neither conformable to the law of nations; nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties. Under all these circumstances, he felt it his indispensable duty to have recourse to those means of prevention and internal defence with which he was intrusted by law; and thought it right to take some steps for making some augmentation of his naval and military force, being persuaded that these exertions were necessary in the present state of affairs, and were best calculated both to maintain internal tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace.

The speech concluded with announcing the brilliant successes of the British arms in India; and with recommending to parliament to adopt such measures as might be necessary, under the present circumstances, for enforcing obedience to the laws, and for repressing every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of these kingdoms.

The vigorous measures which his majesty now adopted, to restore peace and tranquillity to the agitated country, were received by the nation with so much satisfaction, that addresses were presented to the sovereign from every part of the country.

In the address presented by the lord mayor, &c., of the city of London, it is said—

“The paternal regard for the peace and welfare of your people, which induced your majesty to embody the militia, and convene your parliament at a most important conjuncture, cannot but warm every loyal breast with sentiments of the most lively gratitude; and we can with confidence assure your majesty, that it is the united voice of your majesty's faithful citizens of London, when we declare, that being sensible of the necessity of vigorously opposing the per-

fidy, ambition, and aggrandizement of France, now evinced by her declaration of war and commencement of hostilities against this country; in order to maintain the security and honour of your majesty's crown, and to preserve inviolate the constitution of these realms, the sacred source, under Providence, of all our blessings, we are ready to sacrifice our dearest interests in the defence of your majesty's crown and person, and of that substantial freedom which the subjects of the British empire are conscious they enjoy.”

In his majesty's answer, he says—“The assurances of the city of London, of their firm allegiance to my person, and of their attachment to our happy constitution, cannot but be highly acceptable to me; and I rely, with confidence, that their attention will constantly be directed toward the suppression and discouragement of every proceeding which might tend to the subversion of the peace and order of civil society. The city of London may always depend upon my favour and countenance, and my constant care not only to maintain and defend the rights of my crown, but to protect and encourage the trade and commerce of this kingdom, and to preserve inviolate the constitution as by law established.”

Although his majesty was, at this time, deeply immersed in the consideration of the momentous events which were then passing in the country, and by no means regardless of the dangers which environed his throne, he was never inattentive to the smallest minutia connected with the affairs of the nation, particularly in regard to the army, but more especially his own household troops. He had, for a long time, expressed his displeasure at a custom which had existed for many years, for the colonel of the guard, for the day, to give a dinner at some of the coffee-houses in St. James's-street, to the

officers on duty with him. The consequence of these dinner parties was, that the bill often came to twenty and twenty-five pounds, and the treat, thus sanctioned by custom, became extremely prejudicial to the pecuniary concerns of many officers arriving at that rank without a commensurate private fortune.

His majesty became at last so fully convinced of the injury of this custom, and yet entertaining some opinion that it should not be wholly abolished, came to the resolution of taking the expense upon himself, and he accordingly issued his orders that a daily table of nine covers in the first course, and nine in the second, with a desert, wines, &c., should be provided, for which he allowed seven hundred pounds per annum out of the privy-purse; and he also directed that some apartments should be repaired, and a new one built in the engine-court, for the general accommodation of the officers on duty.

The queen had often heard his majesty complain of the fatigue which the heavy dulness of the stately ball-room on court galas occasioned him, determined to present him with an agreeable surprise, and accordingly, she gave a ball and supper at Windsor, on the 10th of January, on a most extensive and superb scale. His majesty was highly pleased with the attention of his august spouse, to his individual happiness, and he appeared to enjoy the merry scene with the purest satisfaction.

This unceremonious gala formed a striking contrast with the form and stiffness which characterized the birth-day ball, which took place a few days afterwards, and only tended to render the latter more irksome and fatiguing; and the only circumstance which threw any animation over the scene, was the union of parties, and the general junction that appeared to animate the people of England against the tyrannical republicanism of France.

His majesty was always particularly anxious to relieve the widows and children of those brave officers who have fallen in the service of their country, and a noble instance of his munificence was displayed at this time in the grant of a pension of 200*l.* a year, to the widow of captain Courtenay, who was killed in an action with the French frigate, the *Ambuscade*, and also an annuity of 50*l.* to his two children. These were annuities of much larger amount than his majesty was in the usual habit of granting, but he granted them in this instance, in consideration of the very intrepid and extraordinary conduct of the unfortunate officer.

The battalions of the guards were, early in the year 1793, ordered for foreign service, and having received marching orders, were drawn up on the parade in St. James's-park, on which occasion the king and the royal family, came to inspect and take leave of them. The king was mounted on a white charger, and dressed in a general's uniform, he was attended by the prince of Wales, the duke of York, and several general and staff officers.

His majesty, in the most condescending manner, minutely inspected them for upwards of half-an-hour, when the three battalions passed him by companies, moving to slow time, the officers saluting as they passed, marching off towards Westminster-bridge for embarkation at Greenwich, to which place they were followed in the rear, by the royal party.

As every boat left the shore, three cheers were given, the king took off his hat, and the queen and princesses waved their handkerchiefs; the spectators joined in the cheers of the soldiers, and frequently accompanied them in singing "God save the king."

On Whit-Tuesday, one of the most brilliant *Montems*, or Etonian processions, took place that had ever been witnessed.

About eleven, the boys assembled in the court yard of the college, and were soon after properly arranged in the procession according to their rank in the school. The king, who always took great delight in this exhibition, with the queen, prince of Wales, princesses, duchess of York, and prince William of Gloucester, arrived at the school-house about noon, and took his station in the school-yard, when the boys marched twice round in military array, with music playing, and colours flying, passing the royal family, and saluting them with a flourish of the flag.

The procession then moved, as usual, to Salt-hill, where the boys were again received by the royal family, surrounded by an immense concourse of spectators, amongst whom were a great number of the nobility and gentry, who had been old Etomians, or were the relatives of the present scholars. After the royal salute, the usual collection took place for the captain of the school, amounting to 1,000*l.*, the king and royal family contributing liberally to the salt-bearers, who, accompanied by the scouts, appeared in their dresses on the evening terrace, where they were noticed by their majesties.

His majesty, it is well known, was gifted with strong natural courage, which quality has descended in a particular degree, to all his illustrious sons. We have a particular instance of this in the conduct of prince Adolphus, who, in the month of September, 1793, was wounded in an affair with the British army before Dunkirk. He afterwards came over on the 13th of September, simply as an officer, and in the strictest incognito, wearing the helmet, through which he was cut in the eye: his coat also bore several sabre marks. His royal highness slept at a private gentleman's, in Thatched-court, St. James's, and set off next morning to visit his august parents at Kew-palace.

Amidst the turmoil of political parties at home, and of war abroad, his majesty did not suffer affairs of state to turn his thoughts unnecessarily from objects of internal improvement. Towards the close of 1793, he became the patron and zealous promoter of the board of agriculture.

The year 1794, was, in many instances, highly auspicious to the British arms, although in the continent some severe disasters befel them. Corsica threw off its allegiance to France, and with the almost unanimous approbation of the natives, the union of the island was voted to the crown of Great Britain, and his majesty assumed the regal title of king of Corsica. This circumstance gave rise to one of the most severe caricatures which was ever published against his majesty. It was entitled, *Mud island off the kingdom of Corsica*. It was a blank profile of his majesty, formed by the segment of a circle, the interior being all black, but the contour of his majesty's countenance was so well depicted, that it was impossible to mistake for whom it was intended. We believe not more than twenty copies of this caricature were sold, the plate having been privately purchased.

When the island of Martinique was taken, the colours were presented to his majesty at St. James's, who ordered that they should be deposited in St. Paul's. The 17th of May was fixed upon by his majesty for this ceremony taking place, and he attended in person on the parade at St. James's, to see the procession depart. The park and tower guns were fired on this occasion.

Nothing can possibly evince more plainly the state of desperation to which the factious malcontents were reduced at this time, than their treasonable conspiracies against the life of royalty. This sufficiently proves that their views were dictated by sanguinary vengeance,

and not by any political evils which they were anxious to have redressed. Had their hatred been solely directed against a monarchy, from an ardent attachment to republicanism, they would surely have recollected, that assassinating the king could not gratify their wishes. The succession to the crown of these realms, was too immediately and firmly established, for such regicides ever to attain to their ends by the massacre of his majesty. In their anxiety to establish plunder and slaughter in this country, they directed their malignancy against the individual from whom they had not received any personal injury, or for whom they could have imbibed any personal hatred. Polluted by the contagious examples of French assassination, they were desperate without cause, reason, or policy. When cruelty is thus exercised without any pretence of policy, resentment, punishment, or social necessity, the cause of such savages must be as execrable as their characters are abhorrent.

These reflections are excited by a most abominable attempt which was at this time made to assassinate his majesty.

The party, amounting to four in number, were members of the London corresponding society. One of them, alarmed at the atrocity of the crime, informed against the rest. Le Maitre and Higgins were apprehended under a warrant from the duke of Portland, and were examined before the privy council, composed of the attorney and solicitor generals, and other lords. Mr. Ford, the magistrate, assisted at the examination, which continued from eleven o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon, Le Maitre was committed to Clerkenwell-prison, and Higgins to Tothillfields-bridewell.

Their accuser Upton, was an artist eminently ingenious and capable of working steel. He and his associates, however mature in villany,

were but striplings in years. He was employed to construct an instrument, the form of which was laid before the privy-council, to take away the life of his majesty. Within a tube of about two feet in length, an arrow was to be concealed. This was to be actuated and directed by collected air from the mouth of the assassin. A subtle poison was to circulate through the dart, so that were the king only touched by the point, his death should be inevitable.

The first attempt against the life of the sovereign, was to be made on his re-appearance on the terrace of Windsor, on Sunday. Had this failed, a second attempt was to have been made, when his majesty should visit the theatre. The envenomed dart was to be discharged from the pit. To effect the purpose, it was designed that several associates were to be stationed in various parts of the house, to alarm and excite the attention of the audience by quarrels, combats, and cries of "Pickpockets," &c. This, it was hoped, would cause his majesty to bend his body forward from his box over the pit, and thus enable the assassin to aim, with the greater certainty, and security from detection. He thought this might be safely effected. He was, however, resolved to risk and even resign his life, could he have completed his project. The apprentice to the chymist was to prepare the poison, and Le Maitre was to discharge the arrow at the king, in the midst of his people, confident in their love, and unsuspecting of the treason.

The year 1794, will be ever memorable for the defeat of the French fleet, by lord Howe on the 1st of June, and on lord Howe's arrival with the channel fleet and prizes at Spithead, the king set off for Portsmouth, where he arrived, in company with the queen and various branches of the royal family; and was received at a light-
ing at the commissioner's house by lord Howe.

and the governor, and by them conducted to the dock-yard, where the royal party embarked for Spithead.

On his first arrival the whole garrison was under arms; and the concourse of spectators was immense. The king appeared delighted with the scene, and carried in his own hand a superb diamond-hilted sword, intended for a present to the gallant naval commander.

On arriving near the Queen Charlotte, lord Howe's flag was shifted to a frigate, and the royal standard hoisted on board the former ship, whither the royal party now repaired, remaining on board until the evening, mixing and conversing with almost all ranks, with the greatest condescension and cheerfulness. During the visit, his majesty presented lord Howe with the sword, and gold chains and medals to the other flag officers. The royal family, on their return to Portsmouth, rowed up the harbour to inspect the French prizes, a sight which afforded them high satisfaction.

The next day their majesties held a levee, at which all ranks of officers were admitted, and afterwards returned to dine with the commissioner, sailing up the harbour in the evening, again to inspect the naval trophies so happily won.

Great rejoicings and illuminations took place on this and the preceding evening; and on the next day, Saturday, the whole of the royal party attended to witness the launching of the Prince of Wales, a fine second-rate. As soon as she was brought to her moorings, the royal party again embarked, in order to go on board the Aquilon frigate, amongst the cheering of multitudes, who made the air ring, and the joyous sounds of bands of music that played in the dock-yard, and on board of the various ships and yachts in the harbour.

As the royal barges approached Spithead, a

general salute was fired, the crews cheering as the barges passed each respective ship; soon after which they went on board the Aquilon, captain Stopford, who instantly got under weigh; when another salute was fired, the bands of the different ships playing martial symphonies during the greatest part of the day.

The Aquilon, after sailing round the fleet, bore away towards the Needles; but owing to there being very little wind, soon after getting near to Cowes-point, in going about, she touched the ground, by which accident they were delayed an hour or two: and night coming on, their majesties and all the royal party took to their barges, the ship not being got off till the rising of the tide.

On Monday their majesties, with prince Ernest and the princesses, went on board the Niger frigate, and sailed for Southampton, where they landed in the afternoon, and immediately proceeded in carriages for Windsor.

In the following circumstance which occurred towards the close of the year 1794, we know not which to admire most, the disinterestedness of the gallant officer, or the noble conduct of his majesty.

It was the wish of ministers to confer the office of general of marines, then held by admiral Forbes, on an officer, who was not only a favourite of his sovereign, but of the country. A message was sent to admiral Forbes, by the ministers, to say, it would forward the king's service if he would resign; and that he should be no loser by his accommodating the government, as they proposed recommending it to the king to give him a pension in Ireland of 3,000*l.*, per annum, and a peerage to descend to his daughter. To this, admiral Forbes sent an immediate answer; he told the ministers, the generalship of the marines was a military employment given him by his majesty, as a

reward for his services—that he thanked God he had never been a burthen to his country, which he had served during a long life to the best of his ability—and that he would not condescend to accept of a pension, or bargain for a peerage. He concluded, by laying his generalship of the marines, together with his rank in the navy, at the king's feet, entreating him to take both away, if they could forward his service: and, at the same time, assuring his majesty he would never prove himself unworthy of the former honours he had received, by ending the remnant of a long life on a pension, or accepting of a peerage, obtained by political arrangement. His gracious master applauded his spirit, ever after continued him in his high military honours, and to the day of his death condescended to shew him strong marks of his regard.

It was at the close of the year 1794, that a treaty of marriage was entered into between the prince of Wales and the princess Caroline of Brunswick, but the union was not consummated, until the following year. The circumstances, however, under which his royal highness stood at this period, placed his majesty in a state of particular embarrassment. We shall not enter into any statement of the ceremony of the marriage, as it is amply detailed in another work*, but we shall merely confine ourselves to those circumstances which had an immediate reference to the embarrassed situation of his majesty.

In his majesty's speech from the throne, at the opening of the sessions of 1795, a proper provision for the prince of Wales on his marriage, was recommended as an object deserving the attention of parliament. It became, therefore the duty of Mr. Pitt, as minister, to pro-

pose such a provision, a duty which, had the proposal been confined to the object, he would have no difficulty to discharge, but, unfortunately, it happened that since the payment of the prince's debts by parliament in 1787, his royal highness had incurred debts to a very considerable amount, not less than 600,000*l.*, and it was deemed necessary to provide some means for their liquidation. The difficulty arose from the implied engagement entered into on the part of the prince, on the former occasion, to incur no more debts, and consequently to make no further application to parliament, on such a subject. The words in his majesty's message of 1787, containing this engagement, were the following:—

“ His majesty, could not, however, expect or desire the assistance of the house, but on a well-grounded *expectation*, that the prince would avoid contracting any debts in future; and his majesty has the satisfaction to inform the house, that the prince of Wales has given his majesty the fullest assurance of his determination to confine his future expenses within his income, and has also settled a plan for arranging those expenses in the several departments, and for fixing an order for payment under such regulations as his majesty trusts will effectually secure the due execution of the prince's intentions.”

No doubt whatever exists, that this amounted to an engagement of the nature contended for, and, indeed, as such it was received at the time, not only in parliament, but by the country at large; it therefore appeared, that the only means of evading the natural conclusion to be drawn from this circumstance was, by shewing that the king contracted the engagement without the consent or knowledge of the prince. But such an evasion seemed impossible to every

* See Haish's *Memoirs of Queen Caroline of England*, &c.

man in the kingdom. There was one man, however, bold enough to make the attempt. In one of the many debates which occurred on this business in the course of the summer of 1795, Mr. Sheridan observed, that alderman Newnham had considered that promise (of 1787) as not binding, because not formally delivered by the prince himself; this, *he* could not accede to, for if he could be more bound than by a direct promise, it would be by the circumstances which attended the promise, such as it was. Had the prince acted under a notion that he gave no direct promise, and received the money under any idea that he could quibble away the promise which he did make, he would act in a shameless and profligate manner, he would then appear to have entered into an incomplete engagement with a view to future prevarication. Mr. Sheridan then declared, that he would state the fact to the house, such as it really was, and leave them to draw their own inference: he, Mr. Sheridan, had advised the prince, not to bind himself by any such obligation, without a more full knowledge of the state of his circumstances altogether, and without the assistance of a man of business, who could regulate his future expenditure. An order of payment and arrangement had been drawn up, and sent to his majesty, and the prince was then informed from the proper quarter, that such arrangement would be sufficient, and the prince's friends strongly advised him to abstain from any promise. How then was he astonished to find, in the message from the throne, that his majesty had received the strongest assurance, that no future debt would be incurred.

It was thus plainly asserted that the prince neither knew of the promise contained in the message of 1787, nor acquiesced in it, whence

it would follow of course, that the minister had put a falsehood into the mouth of his sovereign. To repel so foul an imputation, Mr. Secretary Dundas informed the house, "*That his majesty's message of 1787, was read to the prince of Wales, before it was presented to parliament: it was perfectly intelligible, and his royal highness had certainly a competent knowledge of the English language to enable him to understand its import*.*" Hence the fact was indisputably proved, that the promise was made with the knowledge and consent of the prince.

It was this circumstance which placed his majesty in such an unpleasant dilemma. His message of 1787 declared, that no further debts should be incurred, and yet such was the embarrassed state of his son's affairs at this time, and, which was the more to be deplored, on account of his marriage, that the king saw himself obliged to make another application to parliament, and at a time when the people were by no means well-inclined to support the extravagance of royalty. Accordingly on the 27th of April, his majesty sent a message to the house, in which he expressed the deepest regret in being under the necessity of communicating to the house, that the benefit of any settlement, then to be made, could not be effectually secured to the prince, without providing him with the means of freeing himself from incumbrances to a large amount, to which he was actually liable. His majesty, however, disclaimed all idea of proposing to parliament to make any provision for that object, otherwise than by the application of part of the income which might be settled on the prince; and he earnestly recommended the house to consider of the propriety of thus providing for the gradual discharge of those incumbrances, by appropri-

* Woodfall's Reports, June 5, 1795, p. 504.

ating and reserving, for a given time, the revenues arising from the duchy of Cornwall, together with a proportion of the prince's other annual income; and the king declared his readiness to concur in any provisions which the wisdom of parliament might suggest for the purpose of establishing a regular and punctual order of payment in the prince's expenditure, and of guarding against the possibility of the prince being again involved in so painful and embarrassing a situation.

This message was no sooner brought down to the house, than the voice of the people remonstrated strongly against it, and the king and queen were publicly called upon to come forward and pay a proportion of the debts of their son from their private fortune, and not to throw the whole burthen upon the people. The proverbial parsimony of the queen, and the extraordinary large private fortune of the king, became the subject of general conversation, and exposed them both to the most indiscriminate abuse. The event will testify, that the period in which this additional burthen was imposed upon the people was, of all others, the most dangerous to the interests of royalty, and only tended to increase the disaffection and disloyalty which then appeared to pervade all ranks of the community.

It will be, however, necessary, to the right understanding of the dangers which environed the throne at this time, to enter into a concise statement of the causes which led to almost the extinction of royalty, and to the attempted assassination of the monarch.

The war had become extremely unpopular in this country, for the greatest efforts had been made to persuade the people, that it had no definite object, and that therefore it was not likely to be brought to a speedy termination. It is at all times easy to convince an unthinking

multitude, who act more from their feelings than their intellects, that war, whatever be its object or end, is an evil to be avoided, and that peace on whatever terms and conditions, is a blessing to be courted. Indeed, when a man, with the superior talents and knowledge of Mr. Fox, did not hesitate to subscribe to a similar position, and to avow his preference for a peace, the most iniquitous, over a war the most just, it cannot be a matter of surprise that men, unaccustomed to reason, and unable, from education and habit, to enter into those sentiments, principles and considerations, which lead statesmen and others rather to forego the enjoyment of a present good, and to bear the pressure of a temporary evil, than expose a country to the danger of permanent mischief, should be led to prefer *any peace* to *any war*. From the period of this extraordinary declaration, as if it had served as a text for the comments of disaffection, the endeavours of the members of the seditious societies to spread discontent through the country, had become more strenuous, and evidently more successful. Peace and reform were the watchwords repeated from one extremity of the island to the other, by the emissaries of faction, who thus acquired the support of numbers, unable to perceive that those who spread this clamour, had ulterior views, and instead of peace and reform, aimed at revolt and revolution. It was a great point gained, if by inspiring a disgust of the war, the government could be rendered odious, and the king be induced to change his ministers, and to bring the opposition into power. Peace was certainly desired by the factious themselves, as they felt the importance of a free and open communication with the French, which could not, by any other means be procured; and therefore, whether considered as a means for the attainment of an end, or as the end itself, it was a great

object to them, and every additional advocate gained for a peace, was a fresh accession of strength to the friends of revolution.

If it required little ability to render the multitude hostile to any war, it required still less to persuade them of the propriety of opposing the present war. For though, had it been considered merely as a defensive war in which we had been attacked without provocation, in which the enemy had made no offer of reparation for her unprovoked aggression, and the injuries consequent upon it, it differed in nothing from similar wars at former periods, and, therefore, afforded no grounds for a violent opposition to it, yet all defensive, as it unquestionably was in the strictest sense of the word, it involved so many important considerations, and the discussions to which it had given rise, had been extended to so many collateral objects, that it became easy to divert the minds of the people from its real origin, and to make them misapprehend its true cause, purport, and end. For this insidious and unworthy purpose, every engine was employed. The press groaned with the weight of publications, solely designed to promote it. From the brilliant talents of men in superior stations of life to the coarsest intellects of unlettered advocates, all were employed in forwarding the same object. During the summer, meetings had been holden in the fields in the vicinity of the metropolis—debating societies had been opened—and public lectures had been given, at which popular orators were employed to excite discontent at the war, and dissatisfaction with the government.

To the war were ascribed, not only the inconveniencies, but even the calamities which proceeded from natural causes. A considerable failure in the crops of two successive years, proved an efficient ally to those labourers in the vineyard of faction. Corn had, in consequence,

risen to an enormous price, and this evil was imputed exclusively to the war; and here a noble instance displayed itself of the attention which his majesty paid to the sufferings and privations of his subjects. He ordered mills to be erected at different stations, where he caused corn to be ground, and retailed to the poor at a cheap rate; and in order to render his munificence general, he instituted a careful inquiry throughout the towns of Windsor, Staines, Egham, and their vicinity, for those persons who were deserving of his bounty: to these persons tickets were given, which entitled them to flour gratis. His majesty intended to have given greater publicity to this plan, and to have recommended it to some of the great landed proprietors of the kingdom; but like many other institutions which have charity for their foundation, excess and fraud soon displayed themselves, and his majesty found himself obliged to depart, in some degree, from his general plan, and to fix a certain price, selling the flour at five shillings and four pence per bushel, which, in corn, cost fifteen shillings and six pence in Egham market.

In the meantime, the efforts to excite discontent were not counteracted by adequate exertions on the other side. The press was almost exclusively devoted to the jacobins. With very few exceptions indeed, the periodical publications, daily, weekly, monthly, and annual, were appropriated to the purpose of extending the dissemination of jacobinical principles, and notwithstanding the direful example which the French revolution had supplied of the powerful efficacy of this engine of destruction, Mr. Pitt, who had high notions of the potential influence of undirected reason, when employed in the cause of truth and justice, forbore to adopt the necessary means for counteracting the effects of this wide-spreading mischief, and wholly

neglected the press, as a channel for the conveyance of antidotes to the most fatal poison which ever infected the mind of man.

The trials for high treason which took place about this period at the Old Bailey, had greatly facilitated the plans of the seditious, for they were produced as examples to prove, that there was nothing illegal in the conduct of the factious societies, and that no possible danger could ensue from their proceedings, so long as *peace* and *reform* were their ostensible objects. The credulous multitude gave easy belief to representations which suited their prejudices, while they flattered their consequence. The legal distinction which would render the delusion obvious, they had neither the wish to investigate, nor the ability to understand. They saw the plain broad fact before them, that a revolutionary plan had been adopted, and, to a certain extent, acted upon; that certain leading characters in the transaction had been prosecuted, tried, and acquitted, and hence it was no unnatural conclusion for their own minds to draw, even without assistance, that the law sanctioned all attempts of a similar nature. The lessons then, which were repeated to them at Chalk-farm, at Copenhagen-house, at the various debating societies, and in newspapers, pamphlets, and hand-bills circulated with profusion, found a ready reception in their minds, and prepared them for corresponding acts of resistance and outrage.

It was during this ferment, that the ministers deemed it expedient to assemble parliament at a much earlier period than usual. The 29th of October, was the day fixed for its meeting, a day destined for the practical illustration of those vile principles which had been diffused with so much industry, and with such fatal success during the summer.

An immense concourse of people, much

greater than had ever been witnessed on a similar occasion, had assembled in the park, through which the king was to pass on his way to the house of lords. As the royal carriage moved slowly on, the mob pressed close upon it, vociferating, *Peace—No War—No King*, thus unwarily betraying, not only the ostensible object, but the *end* of these violent proceedings. Superadded to these violent demands, the people were clamorous for the dismissal of Mr. Pitt, and for bread. At one period, about midway between St. James's-palace and the gates of Carlton-house, the mob had separated the royal carriage from the guards who accompanied the king, had pressed close to the door on either side, and so surrounded almost the horses, as nearly to impede their course. It seemed for a short time, to be the resolution of the mob to drag the king from his carriage, and sacrifice him to their brutal fury. At least such was the impression made by their movements, in the minds of those spectators who were at a little distance, and attentively observed the whole transaction. It was impossible at this moment not to make the disgraceful comparison between this British mob and the French mob who stopped the unhappy Louis XVI. on his road to St. Cloud. Every thing seemed French about them; their cries, their gestures, their principles, and their actions, all plainly indicated the polluted source whence they sprung, and proved that they were not of British origin or growth.

Mr. Gifford, in his *History of the Political Life of William Pitt*, says, "I had the misfortune to be a spectator of this disgraceful scene. I have seen many mobs in my life, but never did I behold such an assemblage of ill-looking, desperate wretches, as were collected together on the present occasion. And as far as the designs of men can be inferred from their looks,

their language, and gestures, the designs of this rabble, who so basely dishonoured the name and character of Englishmen, were most treasonable and murderous."

The coachman, who drove his majesty, now became alarmed for the personal safety of his sovereign, but though aware of the danger to which he was exposed, he dared not urge the speed of his horses, who, being used but seldom and accustomed to the slow pace of a state procession, would, he feared, become restive and unmanageable, so that seeking to rescue his royal master from one peril, he might possibly subject him to another. Fortunately, most fortunately for the country, the attempt was not made to perpetrate the meditated deed at this juncture, when it would have been physically impossible to prevent its execution.

The king reached the Horse-guards, amidst the hisses, groans, and abuse of a rabble, who had been regularly trained to sedition and treason. The gates were then closed, so as to prevent numbers of the mob from following the royal carriage to Whitehall. But as it was passing through Palace-yard, the coach window was struck with violence, by something which perforated the glass, and passed with great velocity, very near to the earl of Westmorland, who was with his majesty. From the shape and size of the hole made in the glass, as well as from the great thickness of the glass itself, it was pretty evident, that what had passed through it was a bullet, and that as no explosion had been heard it had been fired from an air gun, for nothing less powerful than some such instrument could have produced the effect. Whatever it was, there cannot exist a doubt in the mind of any rational being, that it was intended for the purpose of assassination, and that the king was its object. It is equally certain that it was a premeditated crime, and when consi-

dered in connexion with the insults which the king experienced in the park, and with the attack made on him on his return, there is every reason for believing that they all sprung from the same source, that they were all equally the result of a settled plan, and that they had all the same object in view—the murder of the king, as a preparatory step to a revolution in the country.

His majesty pointed out the quarter whence the bullet proceeded, and where stood a dray before a house in which no person appeared; which was the more singular, as the windows of every other house on the road, were filled with spectators, who went to see the king pass.

As soon as the king had opened the parliament, he returned, the same way, to the palace, having remained there for some time. He set off alone in his chariot, drawn by two horses, with two footmen behind for Buckingham-house, unattended, through some great neglect or mistake, by any part of the civil or military power. The horse-guards, some time before, were marched off towards Whitehall, so that in proportion to their progress and that of the carriage, they became further removed from each other. As it turned the corner, the mob in great numbers, and vociferating "d—n him, out with him," rushed towards it, and took hold of the spokes of the wheels. At that critical and awful moment, Mr. Bedingfield, who was standing near the wall of the garden waiting for his horses, witnessed the daring attempt. He darted forward to the assistance of the king. Several persons who had hold of the carriage, and impeded its progress, were knocked down, and the wrist of one man was broken. Attempts were made to throw Mr. Bedingfield down, and he received several blows. Apprehensive of being overpowered, and that the

door would be forced open, he took a small pistol out of his pocket, which prevented the most daring of the assailants from approaching.

That gentleman has since said, that he was very willing to believe, that any man of common spirit and equal strength, would have exerted himself with the same effect, but that he assumed the merit, in a moment pregnant with so much danger to his majesty and himself, of not firing, by which step, he would have deprived himself of the intimidating power which he possessed; and to this presence of mind and self-command, he chiefly attributes, under Divine Providence, the safety of the king.

Mr. Bedingfield received afterwards the royal thanks for his exertions on that occasion. The queen said, that she felt so much indebted to him for what he had done, that she never could forget it as long as she lived. The king thanked him and said, that he came just in time.

The author of the *Political Life of Mr. Pitt*, adverting to this transaction, says :

“ Thus, to the activity and presence of mind of this loyal gentleman, was the country, in all probability, indebted for having rescued her character from the foulest stain which the hand of a regicide could inflict, and which no expiation, no atonement, ever would have effaced.”

In turning our eyes back on the period in which this atrocious attempt on the life of his majesty was committed, it is as difficult to mistake the facts which marked the attempt, and the causes which gave birth to it, as it is to contemplate it without horror and dismay. For five years, the regicidal principles of the French had been industriously propagated throughout the country; the murder of their benevolent monarch had been hailed by their British ad-

mirers, as a deed of transcendent patriotism, highly conducive to the establishment of universal freedom; and their example, without any exception as to particular deeds or occurrences, had been held up as worthy of imitation here. It is needless to add, that hatred of kings, and the extirpation of monarchy, were leading doctrines in the new revolutionary creed, and that no objection had ever been started to them, even in that society of which the three dissenting ministers, doctor's Kippis, Towers, and Price, were distinguished members. Indeed, the patriotic principles of the British societies seem to have been more particularly excited, at the critical period of the deposition of Louis XVI., and by no means to have relaxed at the time of his execution. During the whole of the summer of 1795, as has been seen, these principles continued to be diffused with more than usual diligence and activity. In the fields, at debating societies, in lecture-rooms, in papers, pamphlets and hand-bills, kings and kingly governments had been holden up to contempt, and the advantages of a revolution similar to that of France, enlarged upon with great emphasis and with little disguise. At the very first opportunity which offered, the men whose minds had imbibed these doctrines, attack the king on his way to the parliament-house,—insult him with the watch word of the revolutionists—call out *No King*—fire into his carriage—attempt to drag him by force from his chariot; and being foiled in their endeavour, vent their unsatisfied, disappointed fury on the state coach, which they nearly demolished, on its return to the mews. Is there any thing in these proceedings which is not perfectly natural, consistent, and regular? are not cause and consequence as plainly connected, and as clearly discernible as in any known chain of human events? Was it not natural that men, who had imbibed a

hatred for monarchs and monarchy, who had been taught to believe that a monarchical government was incompatible with the existence of civil liberty, and who had been led to admire and imitate a people, who had brought their sovereign to the block, should attempt at once to gratify their hatred, and to obtain the object of their wishes and pursuits, by the only means by which it could be obtained, the murder of their king and the destruction of the constitution. If the personal virtues of a sovereign could have had any influence on minds infected with the revolutionary poison, Louis XVI. had never perished by the hands of the executioner; and therefore the personal virtues of George III., virtues which adorned the man, and dignified his station, would operate as no impediment to the perpetration of regicide in England. That murder was intended, when all the circumstances of the case have been duly considered, it would be folly to doubt. The consideration is dreadful; the mind of an Englishman revolts from the contemplation of such a crime, but the attempt to commit it forms an apt illustration of principles which will ever be productive of the same effect wherever they take root, and by whatever means they are brought to flourish.

This outrage, as it might be supposed, excited great consternation in the house of lords. As soon as the king withdrew, the ministers had a short consultation as to the proper mode of proceeding on so extraordinary an occasion. It was at length determined to postpone the consideration of the speech from the throne to the following day, and immediately to form the house into a committee of privileges. This being done, lord Grenville apprized the peers of the attack which the king had sustained on his way to the house, from persons, who forgetting the respect and reverence due to the

sovereign, had dared to violate the privilege of parliament, to disregard its dignity, insult its honour, and to set the laws of their country at defiance.

The earl of Westmorland, who, as master of the horse, and lord Onslow, who, as lord of the bedchamber in waiting, had attended the king, then stated to the house the particulars of the transaction, as they had come within their knowledge. Some witnesses were next examined, who gave an account similar to that above stated, with some additions. It was proved, that after the royal carriage had passed the gateway at the Horse-guards, there were frequent exclamations of *Down with George!—No King!* and many stones were thrown at the coach by the mob; and it was also stated by one of the king's footmen, that when the ball, or whatever it was, which perforated the glass, whizzed by him, he saw a *window open* in a house in the direction whence it proceeded.

When all the facts had been thus established a conference was proposed with the commons, and a joint address was presented to the king, on which the two houses avowed their indignation and abhorrence at the daring outrages which had been offered to his majesty on his passage to and from parliament; declared, that they could not reflect without the utmost concern, that there should be found within his dominions any persons so insensible of the happiness which all his subjects derived from his just and mild government, and of the virtues which so eminently distinguished the royal character, as to be capable of such flagitious acts; and they expressed their earnest wishes, in which they were confident they should be joined by all descriptions of his majesty's subjects, that he would be pleased to direct the most effectual measures to be taken without delay for discovering the author and abettors of crimes so atrocious.

The conduct of the king during the exhibition of this disgraceful scene, was such as all who were acquainted with his majesty's character, knew it would be—calm, collected, and dignified. His majesty had, previously to this occurrence, signified his intention of going to the play; it was understood that her majesty and most of the princesses, alarmed at what had happened, endeavoured to dissuade the king from carrying his design into effect. His majesty, however, resisted their importunities, and supported by the *mens conscia recti*, with equal wisdom and fortitude, persevered in his resolution of not concealing himself from his subjects. He accordingly visited the theatre, and the reception which he met with, served only to cast a fresh lustre on the royal character, and to prove his majesty entitled equally to the esteem, the gratitude, and the confidence of his subjects.

In compliance with the wishes of the two houses, a proclamation was immediately issued offering a large reward for the discovery of the authors of the outrage; and also stating that previously to the opening of parliament, a meeting had been holden in the vicinity of the metropolis, at which inflammatory speeches were delivered, and divers means used to sow discontent, and to excite seditious proceedings; requiring all magistrates and other well-affected subjects, to exert themselves in preventing and suppressing all unlawful meetings, and the dissemination of seditious writings.

The following authenticated statement by the earl of Onslow, dated twelve o'clock at night, October the 29th, 1795, must heighten our admiration of the character of our departed sovereign, who was so animated with fervent piety as to be undaunted amidst temporal dangers, placing the most implicit reliance on the guidance and governance of God:—

“ Before I sleep, let me bless God for the miraculous escape which my king, my country, and myself, have had this day. Soon after two o'clock, his majesty, attended by the earl of Westmorland and myself, set out from St. James's in his state-coach, to open the session of parliament. The multitude of people in the park was prodigious. A sullen silence, I observed to myself, prevailed through the whole, very few individuals excepted. No hats, or at least very few, pulled off; little or no huzzaing, and frequently a cry of ‘ Give us bread;’ ‘ No war;’ and, once or twice, ‘ No king!’ with hissing and groaning. My grandson Cranley, who was on the king's guard, had told me, just before we set out from St. James's, that the park was full of people, who seemed discontented and tumultuous, and that he apprehended insult would be offered to the king. Nothing material, however, happened, till we got down to the narrowest part of the street called St. Margaret's, between the two Palace-yards, when, the moment we had passed the office of ordnance, and were just opposite the parlour window of the house adjoining it, a small ball, either of lead or marble, passed through the window glass on the king's right hand, and perforated it, leaving a small hole, the bigness of the top of my little finger (which I instantly put through to mark the size), and passed through the coach out of the other door, the glass of which was down. We all instantly exclaimed, ‘ This is a shot!’ The king shewed, and I am persuaded, felt, no alarm; much less did he fear, to which indeed he is insensible. We proceeded to the house of lords, when, on getting out of the coach, I first, and the king immediately after, said to the lord chancellor, who was waiting at the bottom of the stairs to receive the king, ‘ My lord, we have been shot at.’ The king ascended the stairs, robed; and

then, perfectly free from the smallest agitation, read the speech with peculiar correctness, and even less hesitation than usual. At his unrobing afterwards, when the event got more known, (I having told it to the duke of York's ear as I passed under the throne, and to the others who stood near us,) it was, as might be supposed, the only topic of conversation, in which the king joined with much less agitation than any body else. And afterwards, in getting into the coach, the first words he said were, 'Well, my lords, one person is *proposing* this, and another is *supposing* that, forgetting there is One above us all who *disposes* of every thing, and on whom alone we depend.' The magnanimity, piety, and good sense of this, struck me most forcibly, and I shall never forget the words.

"On our return home to St. James's, the mob was increased in Parliament-street and Whitehall, and when we came into the park it was still greater. It was said that not less than 100,000 people were there, all of the worst and lowest sort. The scene opened, and the insulting abuse offered to his majesty was what I can never think of but with horror, or ever forget what I felt when they proceeded to throw stones into the coach, several of which hit the king, which he bore with signal patience, but not without sensible marks of indignation and resentment at the indignities offered to his person and office. The glasses were all broken to pieces, and in this situation we were during our passage through the park. The king took one of the stones out of the cuff of his coat, where it had lodged, and gave it to me, saying, 'I make you a present of this, as a mark of the civilities we have met with on our journey to-day.'"

The agitated state of the country, arising from the anti-monarchical principles, which appeared to have taken deep root in the minds of the

people, now required on the part of the government, the most energetic measures. The person of the king was deemed no longer safe, for the most treasonable pamphlets were circulated with the most astonishing perseverance, in all of which the death of the king was insinuated in terms too distinct, not to be misunderstood. In one of the patriotic productions, as they were called at the time, the following definition of a guillotine was given :

"An instrument of rare invention. As it is the custom to decapitate, and not hang kings, it is proper to have this instrument ready to make death easy to them, supposing a necessity of cutting them off. This instrument is used only for great malefactors, such as kings, bishops and prime ministers. England and France have had their regular turns in executing their kings; *France did it last, &c.*"

Two other productions, of a similar nature, were also industriously circulated at this time, one was entitled, *King Killing*, and the other *The Reign of George the Last*. The king was, in all instances, exposed to the virulence and abuse of the people, for they were taught that they had no hope left from legislative or executive powers, but that they were to look to themselves alone, since no redress could be expected from the constituted authorities. It was under these circumstances, and at this crisis of the country, that the attack was made upon the king, and while the nation was in consternation and horror at the event, a printer had the audacity to publish a libel, in which the whole of the facts were misrepresented, with the view to excite the ridicule and contempt of the people.

In consequence of the outrage committed against his majesty, lord Grenville, on the 6th of November, introduced a bill into parliament by which it was enacted, "That if any persons should compass, or imagine, or intend death,

destruction, or any bodily harm to the person of the king, or to depose him, or waylay, in order, by force, to compel him to change his measures or counsels, or to overawe either house of parliament, or to excite an invasion of any of his majesty's dominions, and shall express and declare such intentions by printing, writing, or any overt-act, he shall suffer death as a traitor."

In the mean time the utmost exertions were employed to discover the perpetrators of the outrage against his majesty, and to bring them to condign punishment. Four witnesses of what passed in the course of that memorable day, *viz.*, Mr. Walford of Pallmall, Mr. Stockdale of Piccadilly, one of his majesty's footmen, and Kennedy belonging to the police-office in Bow-street, were severally examined at the bar of the house of lords, on the evening of the 29th, and a copy of the minutes of the evidence was communicated to the house of commons, the following day.

The evidence on this occasion went only to confirm the narrative which we have already given, and to criminate a man of the name of Kidd Wake, and three other persons, who were apprehended on the occasion, but who appeared to have been no further guilty than in hissing and hallooing, and making use of some indecent and seditious expressions.

Mr. John Walford, of Pallmall, called out on duty that day as a constable, deposed, that, on entering Parliament-street, he observed one man in particular among the crowd, very active; which he observed to Mr. Stockdale, his brother constable, at the time. This man was running by the side of the coach, and exclaiming, "No war! Down with George!" And on their entrance into Palace-yard, he observed something come with great velocity from the foot pavement as he thought; on which he ob-

served to Mr. Stockdale, "Good God! the glass is broken! That must surely be a ball." His majesty then passed on to the house, and he observed the man with the crowd perfectly quiet. Immediately on his majesty coming out of the house, the crowd set up a hooting and hissing. He did not observe that man any more particularly, till he arrived in the park; when he perceived him frequently to stoop down, but whether he picked up any thing he could not say; but at that time there were many stones thrown from different quarters. Hearing the same man make the same exclamation again, he told him, if not quiet, he most assuredly should take him into custody.

He repeated the exclamation of "Down with George!" again; upon which he immediately seized him; and, under the protection of the horse-guards, conducted him to the court-yard of St. James's, where he left him.

The other persons examined said little more than went to confirm the evidence of Mr. Walford.

On the same evening some persons, taken into custody upon suspicion of having insulted his majesty, were examined at the office in Bow-street.

The first was Kidd Wake, (the person taken by Mr. Walford), aged twenty-seven, and a journeyman printer.

Lemon Caseby, a constable, deposed, that he observed the prisoner, soon after the carriage had entered the park, hiss, groan, and call out, "No war!" vehemently and repeatedly. The witness endeavoured to secure him, but fell down in the attempt; when he rose, he observed the prisoner again in the same act; he kept his eyes upon him as far as the Horse-guards, and there lost sight of him. After his majesty alighted at the house of lords, a Mr. Walford came up, and observed to the witness

and other peace-officers, that he should know the man who broke the glass of the coach, describing him to wear a green coat with a black collar.

On the return of his majesty into the park, near St. James's, he observed the prisoner scuffling with Mr. Walford, to whose assistance he went, and they secured him; Mr. Walford not attending to identify his person, the description given by him to the witness, of the man who threw the stone in Parliament-street, could not be received in evidence.

The prisoner said he was in the service of Mr. Noble, a printer; was a married man; and by hissing and groaning at his majesty, he meant only to let the king see "he was dissatisfied at the war."

Three others were examined the same evening with Kidd Wake; but the evidence did not affect them materially; all four, however, were committed to prison that evening for further examination.

On the next morning Kidd Wake was brought before the sitting magistrates for re-examination, when Mr. Walford, above-mentioned, came forward, and deposed, that as soon as he joined the procession as constable, he observed to Mr. Stockdale, his brother officer, how very particularly active the prisoner was in hissing, hooting, and calling out, "No war!" And as the procession was passing through St. Margaret-street, he saw something small go with great velocity against one of the coach windows, which made a small hole in the glass; and at this time the prisoner disappeared; but when the king arrived at the house of peers, he again observed the prisoner in the front of the crowd; when some other officers, remarking the prisoner's active conduct, proposed to take him into custody; but on consideration it was declined. When his majesty came out of the

house, he lost sight of the prisoner till the procession had passed through the Horse-guards, when he observed the prisoner, and about thirty more, close to the carriage, grinning at the king, groaning, and calling out, "No war! Down George!" But whether the prisoner said *down George*, he could not positively say. As the procession was passing from the Horse-guards towards Carlton-house gates, six or seven stones were flung at the carriage; and about the time the stones were flung, he observed the prisoner stoop two or three times; but whether he flung any of the stones he would not positively say. The witness remonstrated with the prisoner upon the impropriety of his conduct, who paid no attention to the remonstrance, till at length passing along the mall, the witness, with the assistance of one of the horse-guards, secured him. The prisoner, Kidd Wake, was re-committed for further examination. He at length was brought to trial, and found guilty of hooting, groaning, and hissing at the king; for which he was sentenced to be confined for several years in the penitentiary house at Gloucester, and to stand in the pillory.

Amidst the general gloom which this outrage against his majesty occasioned in the country, it was highly consolatory to him to receive the assurances of loyalty and attachment to his sacred person, which were contained in the numerous addresses which were presented to him from every quarter of the kingdom. A circumstance, however, took place, respecting one of the addresses, which deserves particular notice, as it establishes some coincidence with former demands of the corporation of the city of London, and strongly exemplifies the high respect which his majesty entertained for the privileges of his subjects.

Amongst the numerous addresses presented to his majesty, one was voted by the bishop,

dean, and chapter of St. Paul's, and clergy of London and Westminster, which the bishop, (Porteus) was deputed to present on the 3d of December. According to usual custom, Dr. Porteus sent a copy of the address to the duke of Portland, then home secretary of state, requesting him to take the king's pleasure when he would receive it; and the duke in a few days returned an answer that his majesty would receive it, not on the throne, but at the levee. But the bishop being aware of the existence of a privilege of the London clergy, founded on ancient custom, immediately desired an interview with the duke, and shewed him some papers, which fully established the fact that addresses from the clergy of the metropolis were always received on the throne. The noble secretary promised to state this next day to the king, who was instantly convinced of its propriety, and complied with the privilege as claimed by the worthy prelate.

The year 1795 concluded with little consolation abroad, and with a general and torpid despondency at home, as far as respected the public affairs. A dreadful and oppressive scarcity pervaded the kingdom; several instances occurred of persons who perished through absolute want, and the poor were every where despairing and desperate. To the calamitous war, and to the misconduct of ministers, all the misery under which the nation groaned, was perhaps, rashly attributed. Distress goaded the people on to every species of excess, and treason and rebellion stalked rampant over the country.

The alarm which the attack on his majesty had excited, had scarcely begun to subside, when another disloyal insult was offered to him. As he was returning through Pallmall to Buckingham-house, from Drury-lane theatre, on the 1st of February, 1796, an evil-disposed per-

son flung a stone at the coach, in which were their majesties and the lady in waiting, with such violence as to break the window, and enter the carriage, where it fell into lady Harrington's lap. A reward of 1,000*l.* was immediately offered for the detection of the offender, but he was never discovered.

Another maniacal attempt was made on the royal family early in February, when a woman, genteely dressed, found means to get into the queen's house, and was passing to the queen's apartments, when she was discovered by a servant, who insisted on her telling where she was going, when she replied she was going to her mother, Mrs. Guelph, the queen, who had got some writings belonging to her; and if her mother did not give them up, she would find means to commit some horrid act. Upon this some of the servants secured her, and she was given into the custody of the patrol; and on the ensuing Monday morning, at an early hour, she was brought to Bow-street, and underwent an examination before William Addington, esq., during which she appeared very much composed. She said her name was Charlotte Georgina Mary Ann Guelph. She persisted in the story she told at the queen's house the night before, of the queen being her mother, &c. She further said, that the late duke of York was her father; that she was born at Rome; and that she was sold to a gentleman in Spain, &c.

We should not have made any further mention of the numerous libels which at this period issued from the licentious portion of the press, against his majesty, had not one of them given occasion to the late lord Kenyon to pass an eulogium upon our late monarch, which was not more honourable to him who pronounced, than of to the amiable monarch who so well deserved it. Few persons acquainted with the history the turbulent period of 1795 6, forget the name

of Daniel Eaton, a man notorious for his seditious publications, and his jacobinical principles. There is, however, one particular circumstance connected with the history of this man, which shews that the predilections of our youth do not always attend us in our maturer years. The father of this Eaton held some situation about the court, and Daniel was not only personally known to his majesty, when prince George, but was even known at times to be his playfellow. It might have been supposed that the principles which had been early instilled into the mind of Daniel Eaton, added to the favours which his family had always received from the royal family, would have induced him to abstain from any act which might tend to degrade or vilify royalty, or bring discredit on the government of the country. But the contrary was the case. Eaton, being a bookseller in Newgate-street, published a work something similar to the Political Dictionary, in which the word "king," is made to signify "cunning and craft, which would soon be in disrepute in this country;" the meaning of a "niggard," he declared to be "a king who had defrauded his subjects of nine millions of money;" adding, "Oh! Mr. Guelph, where do you expect to go to when you die," and strongly recommending the guillotine as a *sovereign* remedy. For this libel Eaton was tried and found guilty, to the great satisfaction of the loyal community.

In the address of lord Kenyon, speaking of our late benevolent and pious monarch, he compared him to Samuel the Judge of Israel, for he could say, "Whose ox have I taken? whose ass have I taken? whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed?" sentiments which came so home to the feelings of all present, that the conviction of the libeller was not for a moment doubtful.

In the midst of this oppressive gloom, which threatened to overshadow the brightest interests

of the nation, one circumstance of a most cheering and exhilarating nature occurred, and which did not fail to have its due influence on the domestic happiness of our late monarch. This circumstance was the happy delivery of the princess of Wales of a daughter, between the hours of nine and ten on the morning of the 7th of January, 1796. The following persons were present at the delivery. His royal highness the duke of Gloucester, his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, the lord president of his majesty's council, his grace the duke of Leeds, his grace the duke of Devonshire, the earl of Cholmondeley, lord chamberlain, and the earl of Jersey, master of the horse to his royal highness the prince of Wales, the right honourable lord Thurlow, and the ladies of her royal highness's bedchamber.

In this event his majesty saw the succession to the throne confirmed, and the tenure of the illustrious house of Brunswick to the crown of England established; but these were hopes destined in one fatal moment to be annihilated—they blossomed indeed to maturity, but a fell blast came over them, and the country still mourns their destruction—yet in mental darkness was the good king shrouded; living, as it were, in a heavenly kingdom of his own, he knew not the ravages which death had occasioned in his earthly one, and the awful blow from heaven passed over him, like the simoon over the desert, which in its arid nature, feels not its blasting influence.

It is impossible to fix upon any period of his late majesty's life more pregnant with important events, than that which now engrosses our attention. It was an era of revolution, mutiny, and rebellion, the vessel of the state was exposed to all the storms of domestic faction, and it was only the energy of the monarch, and the skill of his ministers, which ultimately saved it.

One consequence, indeed, might have been expected from the disastrous state of the public affairs. A partial change at least of ministers might have been regarded as a necessary consequence of unsuccessful counsels; yet even the political phenomenon was exhibited, of an administration defeated in almost every project, failing in almost every promise, and mistaken almost in every speculation, and yet possessing still the confidence of the people. Since the period when a regular opposition was first formed in this country, the party hostile to ministers was perhaps never weaker than at that of which we are now treating. The state of parties was indeed very fairly put to trial at the general election, which took place in the months of June and July, 1796. With a very few exceptions, where the private character of the candidate, or the influence of family connexions, weighed against his political sentiments the tide of success in the counties and boroughs ran proudly in favour of the minister and his supporters.

The new parliament was called together at a season of the year unusually early, the 6th of October. His majesty's speech from the throne afforded much satisfaction to the nation, and was welcomed as the harbinger of returning peace. It intimated "that his majesty had omitted no endeavour for the setting on foot negotiations to restore peace to Europe; in consequence of which, a way was now opened to an immediate negotiation, which must produce an honourable peace for us and our allies, or prove to what cause alone the prolongation of the war was to be ascribed.

"That his majesty would send a person to Paris, with full powers to treat for this object; but it was evident, that nothing could so much contribute to give it effect as the parliament manifesting both the determination and the re-

sources to oppose the enemy; especially as there was an open design professed of attempting a descent upon these kingdoms.

"That, by the skill and exertions of the navy, our commerce had been protected almost beyond example; the fleets of the enemy had been blocked up in their own ports; the operations in the East and West Indies had been productive of great national advantages; and though the fortune of war on the continent had been more various, such a turn had been given to our affairs by the spirit of the Austrian forces under the archduke Charles, as might inspire confidence that the end of the campaign would prove as disastrous to the enemy as its commencement had been auspicious."

We have considered ourselves particularly called upon to notice the speech of his majesty, as he was accused of gross insincerity in regard to the negotiations for peace, and the result of lord Malmsbury's mission to Paris rather tended to confirm this accusation. It was, however, a master-stroke of policy in his majesty's ministers, to encourage the alarm of an immediate descent upon the kingdom, as it turned the tide of the public attention from domestic grievances to an immediate consideration of the best means for defending the country.

A circumstance, however, of a domestic nature tended, at this time, very much to afflict his majesty, which was the difference between the prince and princess of Wales, and which ultimately led to their separation. The part which his majesty had to act on this occasion, was most difficult and delicate. Though strongly attached to his niece, he still could not divest himself of the feeling of a father for a son, and the only alternative that remained, was to conciliate the illustrious parties as much as possible, with a view of an ultimate adjustment of their differences. The evil, however, had struck too

deep a root to be checked by the amicable interference of his majesty, and at a future period led to those proceedings, which excited the indignation of the country. We shall defer enlarging upon this unpleasant topic in the present stage of our history, as it will be more minutely detailed in a subsequent part, when, the fire which was at this time only glimmering in the ashes, burst into a flame, which threatened to destroy the best interests of the kingdom.

An interesting circumstance took place early in 1797, which was the delivery to the king, at Buckingham-house, of the presents which were intrusted to captain Vancouver for his sovereign, by the king of the Sandwich islands; who, of his own free-will acknowledged fealty to the king of Great Britain, accompanied by the most pompous ceremonies. The principal presents in allusion to the homage, were two state garments and a helmet and crown. One of these was of otter skin, the other of the cloth of Owhyhee, covered with bird's feathers so ingeniously, that by a single move of the hand, it would display feathers of a red or yellow colour, like some of our conjuror's books. The helmet also was of otter skin, covered with feathers in a very masterly manner, superior even to the specimens in the British museum.

It was in the month of February, 1797, that the city of London was thrown into a state of unusual alarm, by the stoppage of payment in cash at the Bank of England. The critical posture of the empire in consequence of this unexpected event, made it necessary to take the king's pleasure on a step of the highest and most important nature, and which nothing but the most desperate alarm could justify. It was on a Saturday that the above event took place, and so urgent was the case, that Mr. Shaw, the messenger, was instantly despatched to request his majesty to come to town on the following

day (Sunday), in order to assist at a privy-council. It is worthy of remark, that this was the first time during his reign, that he came to town to transact business on a Sunday. The council was accordingly held at St. James's, his majesty being present in person; the duke of York, the chancellor of the exchequer, the duke of Portland, lord Grenville, the marquess Cornwallis, earl Spencer, and the earl of Chatham being also present; the deliberation lasted five hours, when a proclamation was directed to be issued.

As soon as the plan was agreed upon at the privy council, the ministers were met in Downing-street by the governor and deputy-governor of the bank, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Bosanquet, and other gentlemen in the direction. It was communicated to them, and a long and warm conference took place on the occasion. The substance of the measure was a recommendation to the bank of England, not to issue any more gold in payment of their notes until the sense of parliament should be taken.

With a view of allaying the alarm which this proceeding, on the part of the bank, occasioned, the following notice was issued by the directors of the bank.

Bank of England, February 27, 1797.

In consequence of an order of his majesty's privy-council notified to the bank last night, a copy of which is hitherto annexed,

The governor, deputy-governor, and directors of the bank of England, think it their duty to inform the proprietors of bank stock, as well as the public at large, that the general concerns of the bank are in the most affluent and prosperous situation, and such as to preclude every doubt as to the security of its notes.

The directors mean to continue their usual discounts for the accommodation of the commercial interest, paying the amount in bank notes, and the dividend warrants will be paid in the same manner.

FRANCIS MARTIN, Secretary.

A meeting was held on the same day at the mansion-house, of the merchants and bankers, &c., to consider of the steps which it was proper to take to prevent embarrassments to public credit, from the effect of any ill-founded or exaggerated alarms, and to support it with the utmost exertions at this important conjuncture.

The lord-mayer in the chair,

Resolved unanimously, that we, the undersigned, being highly sensible how necessary the preservation of public credit is at this time, do most readily hereby declare that we will not refuse to receive bank-notes in payment of any sum of money to be paid to us, and we will use our utmost endeavours to make all our payments in the same manner.

BROOK WATSON.

This resolution, which is nearly a copy of that used in the year 1745, when there was a run upon the bank, was signed in a few days by the principal bankers, merchants, and traders, and was inserted in the London Gazette.

The lords of his majesty's council being also desirous to contribute as far as they could to the support of the public and commercial credit of the kingdom, at this important crisis, agreed and bound themselves to receive the notes of the bank of England in all payments as money, and to support, as far as depended on them individually, their circulation.

Thus, by the energy of his majesty's government, was one of the most alarming events, affecting the commerce and credit of the country, which had happened during the whole of his majesty's reign, actually converted into the means of establishing the credit of the bank of England, and of restoring confidence to the commercial world.

In this period of foreign war and domestic disquietude, his majesty lost not sight of the fine arts, but on every occasion testified his dis-

position to encourage them. It was at this period that his majesty honoured Mr. Beechey, of the royal academy, with his patronage, in consequence of the superior manner in which he had finished the portraits of several persons of high rank and fashion. His majesty was so highly pleased with the style in which some of these portraits were painted, that he appointed Mr. Beechey portrait-painter to her majesty, and commanded him to execute the portraits of the queen and the princesses, two of which appeared in the exhibition at Somerset-house. Mr. Beechey, having now given such ample testimony of his talents, was intrusted by his majesty with a subject, the execution of which required no common talent, which was the grand picture of the king himself and the princes, at the review in Hyde-park. When this picture was completed, his majesty was so pleased with it, that he conferred on Mr. Beechey the honour of knighthood.

His majesty also made considerable additions to his collection of paintings in the spring of 1797, by purchases at the famous Trumbull sale, consisting of Raphael's Virgin, Christ and St. John, the Dejanira and Centaur, and some capital pieces by Berghem, all selected by the late president of the royal academy.

A strong contest respecting the receipt of petitions from the city of London in its corporate capacity, took place about this period, when on the 16th of March, the lord mayor called the attention of the court of common-council to a requisition from forty-three livery-men, desiring him to call a common-hall, "to consider of an humble address and petition to his majesty, upon the present alarming state of public affairs, and praying him to dismiss his present ministers from his councils for ever, as the first step towards obtaining a speedy, honourable, and permanent peace."

To this very absurd proposal, the lord-mayor had merely answered that he would consult the court of aldermen, and had from them received a protest against such a measure. He then submitted several papers to the common-council, but that body was unanimously of opinion that it would be highly improper for them to give any opinion respecting the propriety or expedience of convening the common-hall so desired.

A common-hall was, however, summoned for the 23d, when a petition to the purpose before expressed was almost unanimously voted, as the friends of the measure had taken early means to fill the hall with their own partisans and parasites; and the sheriffs, with the city representatives, were deputed to present it to his majesty on the throne.

The next day the sheriffs, attended at St. James's to know when the king would be pleased to receive the petition of the livery agreeable to the form here pointed out; when they were informed that his majesty would receive no petition from the city of London, on the throne, except in its corporate capacity; but that he was willing to receive it at the levee, in the ordinary manner of accepting addresses.

A common-hall was now called on the 1st of April, when the lord-mayor laid before the livery the report of the sheriffs, stating the answer given to them by the duke of Portland when they attended at the levee; but the livery thought proper to resolve, that the sheriffs of London had an acknowledged right to an audience of the king, and were in duty bound to demand the same; directing the sheriffs, attended by the remembrancer, to demand a personal audience of the king, to know when he would be pleased to receive upon the throne, the address and petition.

In pursuance of this resolution, sheriffs Staines and Langstone proceeded on the 5th of April to St. James's, to have a personal interview with his majesty, to which they were admitted; and, on being introduced, explained to his majesty the conceived right or privilege of the citizens of London, in livery, to present their addresses to the throne, informing him at the same time, that in the present instance they could not deliver their petition in any other manner.

The king, in his reply, plainly stated that he should always be ready to receive their addresses or petitions at the levee; but that he could not receive any petitions from the city of London upon the throne, except in its corporate capacity—that is, of mayor, aldermen, and common-council only; with which answer the sheriffs and remembrancer returned to the lord-mayor, who called another common-hall on the 12th, in which the report was read, with the additional circumstance, that the sheriffs had been informed officially, that the answer first given by the duke of Portland was by his majesty's own desire.

Two resolutions were now put and carried, declaratory of the assumed privilege; but the partisans of the measure went rather too far in proposing a third resolution, which the lord-mayor declared he could not, consistently with his duty to preserve inviolate the rights of the livery, admit to be put; for as the business of the day upon which the livery were met was specified in the summons issued to call them together, so it was his duty to take care that no other business should be discussed.

This was loudly resented by the demagogues; but after considerable altercation, the lord-mayor ordered the insignia of office to be taken up, and the hall was, of course, dissolved: yet the reformers did not separate before a vote of censure was proposed by a leading member of

the common council, and of course carried by acclamation, against the lord-mayor, for what the proposer thought proper to call "an unprecedented attack on the deliberative rights of the livery of London, in common-hall assembled."

A new requisition was next presented to the lord-mayor (Brook Watson), on the 22d of the month, requiring him to call a common-hall within eight days, for the purpose of again taking into consideration the sheriffs' report, "to investigate the real causes of the awful and alarming state of public affairs; and to adopt such measures as may be expedient in the present conjuncture;" to which his lordship replied, on the 25th, stating his willingness to call a hall for the purpose of taking into consideration the sheriffs' report; but at the same time declaring, that he felt it incompatible with his duty to assemble the livery for the other purposes expressed in the requisition, considering the investigation of the real causes of the state of public affairs as a proposition too extensive and unqualified to admit of discussion in an assembly confessedly not deliberative.

But the business did not drop here; for, on the 3d of May, another requisition was sent to the lord-mayor to take into consideration the sheriffs' report; also "the grievances brought on by a corrupt system of undue influence, and the incapacity of his majesty's ministers;" and to submit several resolutions, expressive of the sentiments of the livery, contained in the former petition, with a motion that the city representatives should be instructed to move an address to the king, "praying him to dismiss from his presence and councils his present weak and wicked ministers, as the most likely means of obtaining a speedy and permanent peace."

To this most absurd and preposterous requisition, the lord-mayor returned for answer, that

he would call a common-hall for all the above-mentioned purposes, except the report, which was accordingly held on the 11th of May, when several strong resolutions to the same purport were carried by a packed and crowded hall; and the lord-mayor had the singular pleasure of signing a vote of censure on himself, for dissolving the former court, and for convening the existing court for purposes short of those mentioned in the requisition, by which, said the resolution, he "has violated the rights of the livery, has suffered his political attachments to warp his official conduct, and proved himself to be utterly undeserving of the confidence of his constituents."

A treaty of marriage had been, for some time, on the tapis, between the princess royal of England and the prince of Wirtemberg, but it was by no means an alliance which met with the hearty concurrence of his majesty, as some very unfavourable reports were in circulation respecting the prince's character; in which it was openly insinuated that he had either participated in, or that he had criminal knowledge of, the death of his first wife, in a Russian prison, in which it was asserted that she had been confined at his express desire, on account of some real or supposed indiscretions. His serene highness produced several documents and papers, denying in toto the allegations against him, or that he was even privy to any improper measures being used against her. His majesty examined these papers most minutely, and he expressed himself fully convinced that the prince was innocent of the charges alleged against him, and no obstacle was raised to the union.

It was on the 11th of May that his most serene highness the hereditary prince of Wirtemberg came to the apartments prepared for his reception at St. James's. His highness having

been invited by the right honourable sir Joseph Banks, K.B., to stop, in his way to London, at Spring-grove, and to partake of a collation, was met at Spring-grove by the right honourable lord Malmsbury, K.B. and sir Stephen Cottrell, knt., his majesty's master of the ceremonies, and was by them conducted to London in one of his majesty's coaches, drawn by six horses, and repaired to his apartments at St. James's. Immediately after his arrival, his highness received a visit from the marquess of Salisbury, lord-chamberlain of his majesty's household. Their majesties and the royal family sent their compliments of welcome to his most serene highness upon his arrival at St. James's; and the right honourable Charles Greville, vice-chamberlain of his majesty's household, who carried the compliments from his majesty, acquainted his most serene highness, that his majesty had appointed the ensuing day to receive his highness after the levee; when his most serene highness waited on his majesty, and afterwards on the queen and on the royal family, at the times respectively appointed.

Before the hour came for his most serene highness to have access to the king, his highness received visits from their graces the archbishops of Canterbury and York, the lord-chancellor, and other lords of his majesty's most honourable privy council, and from many of the nobility, and other persons of distinction, and from the foreign ministers; all of whom were presented to his most serene highness. The following day, his highness again received visits from divers of the nobility, and went to the drawing-room to pay his compliments to the queen; his serene highness afterwards paid his compliments to his majesty at the levee.

The solemnity of the marriage of his serene highness Frederick William, hereditary prince of

Wirtemberg-Stutgard, with Charlotte Augusta Matilda, princess royal of Great Britain, lady of the imperial order of Russia of St. Catherine, and eldest daughter of king George III., was performed in the chapel royal, by the archbishop of Canterbury. After the ceremony, their majesties, with the rest of the royal family, passed into the great council-chamber, where the great officers, nobility, foreign ministers, and other persons of distinction, paid their compliments on the occasion; which were received by the bride and bridegroom in her majesty's apartment.

The last interview between his majesty and his royal daughter, was of the most affecting kind. The princess hung upon her father's neck, overwhelmed in grief, and it was not until her consort urged her to close the painful scene, that she could be prevailed upon to leave her father. The affectionate parent followed her to bid her farewell, but he was so overcome by the excess of his parental feelings, that he could not give utterance to his words, and his streaming eyes looked the last blessing, which his lips could not pronounce.

On the 9th of May, the subject of the portion which was to be given with the princess royal, came under consideration in the house of commons, when the chancellor of the exchequer moved that the sum of 800,000*l.* be the marriage portion of her royal highness. The motion met with some opposition, but it was ultimately carried.

It is now our painful duty to record another of those extraordinary events which the year 1797 produced, and this was the mutiny of the navy. The British nation was, perhaps, never engaged in a contest, in which the importance of its naval power was more apparent, than at this particular period of our history. To it we are indebted for more than success in a common

warfare, therefore the very safety and existence of the country depend upon our naval power. It was, therefore, not without the most serious apprehensions that a spirit of disaffection was observed in the spring of 1797, to break out in the fleet, the origin of which it was not easy to trace, though the consequences of its continuance were sufficiently obvious. The professed and, perhaps, the real motive of the disturbance, was the redress of certain grievances respecting the quantum and distribution of their pay and provisions; complaints not new in their nature, but, as their petitions set forth, more intolerable than ever, from the circumstances of the times.

The mutiny commenced at Portsmouth, and shewed itself in its full force, on lord Bridport receiving orders from government to sail with the channel fleet. When the signal was made to prepare for sea, a general disobedience was obvious, and instead of weighing anchor, the seamen of the admiral's ship ran up the shrouds and gave three cheers, which was the signal previously agreed upon, to announce the disobedience of orders; and these cheers were instantly answered in the same manner from the other ships, which sufficiently manifested a complete combination.

The sailors at Portsmouth remained in this mutinous state till the 14th of May, when lord Howe at length arrived from the admiralty with plenary powers to inquire into, and settle, the matters in dispute: he was also the welcome bearer of an act of parliament, which had been passed on the 9th, granting an additional allowance, and also with his majesty's proclamation of pardon for all those who should immediately return to their duty.

The public saw with infinite satisfaction, that the grievances of their brave defenders were redressed, and that they had returned to their

obedience and their duty; but this pleasure was speedily turned into fresh alarm and consternation, by a new mutiny in another quarter, which, for boldness and extent, was without a parallel in the naval history of Britain.

The north-sea fleet, as well as the ships lying at the Nore, appeared to have the redress of other grievances in view, besides what related to the increase of pay and provisions, which had been demanded by the grand fleet at Spithead. The mutineers, in imitation of what had been done at Portsmouth, chose delegates from every ship, of whom a man of the name of Richard Parker was appointed president. After having either confined or sent on shore their principal officers, they transmitted to the lords of the admiralty a series of articles, or conditions, to which they peremptorily demanded compliance, as the only terms upon which they would return to obedience; several of those articles were regarded as entirely incompatible with the discipline of the navy, while some others, such as a more equal division of prize-money, were represented by some, as no more than reasonable additions to the concessions to which government had agreed at Portsmouth.

The adherents of administration contended, that considering what had already been done for the seamen in general, nothing short of unconditional submission ought to be accepted by government from such daring mutineers and rebels; while some of the adverse party conceived, that by moderate and modified concession, the love and fidelity of the navy would be more effectually secured, than by adopting harsh and coercive measures.

The mutineers at the Nore, on the 23d of May, struck the flag of admiral Buckner, on board the Sandwich, and hoisted a red flag, the symbol of mutiny, in its stead. They compelled all the ships which lay near Sheerness,

to drop down to the Great Nore, in order to concentrate the scene of their operations; amongst which was the *St. Fiorenzo*, which had been fitted up to carry the princess of Wirtemberg to Germany. Each man-of-war sent two delegates; and besides these, there was in every ship a committee, consisting of twelve men, who determined, not only all affairs relative to the internal management of the vessel, but decided upon the merits of the respective delegates. At the commencement of the mutiny, the delegates came every day to Sheerness, where they held conferences, and paraded the streets and ramparts of the garrison. Richard Parker, who was considered as the rebel-admiral of the fleet, marched at the head of these processions, which were accompanied with music and flags, and had a triumphal appearance, calculated to make new converts to their illicit proceedings. The delegates and committee-men went on shore and returned on board as they pleased. This indulgence, however, was soon put an end to by the arrival of lord Keith and sir Charles Grey, who had been sent down to superintend the naval and military proceedings in that quarter.

The last attempt at a reconciliation by treaty with the mutineers, was through the medium of the earl of Northesk, who was a favourite with the seamen on board the whole fleet. On the 6th of June, the two delegates of the *Monmouth* were rowed on board that ship, and informed his lordship, that it was the pleasure of the committee, that he should accompany them on board the flag-ship, as they had proposals to make, leading to an accommodation; his lordship complied, and went attended by one officer. He found the convention in the state cabin, consisting of sixty delegates, with Parker sitting at their head. Before they entered upon business, the president demanded of the person

accompanying lord Northesk, who he was? The answer was, "An officer of the *Monmouth*, who accompanied the captain as secretary." Parker then said, "that the committee, with one voice, had come to a declaration of the terms on which alone, without the smallest alteration, they would give up the ships; and that they had sent for him, as one who was known to be the seamen's friend, to be charged with them to the king; from whom he must pledge his honour to return on board with a clear and positive answer within fifty-four hours."

Parker then read the letter, which is said to have contained some compliments to his majesty's virtues, and many severe strictures on the demerits of his ministers. His lordship informed the delegates that, "he would certainly bear the letter as desired, but he could not, from the unreasonableness of the demands, flatter them with any expectation of success." They persisted that the whole must be complied with, or they would immediately put the fleet to sea. Parker then delivered to his lordship a paper, in the following words, by way of ratifying his credentials.

Sandwich, June 6, 3 P.M.

To captain Lord Northesk.

You are hereby authorized and ordered to wait upon the king, wherever he may be, with the resolutions of the committee of delegates, and are directed to return back with an answer within fifty-four hours from the date hereof.

R. PARKER, President.

Lord Northesk proceeded to London with this despatch; and after stopping for a short time at the admiralty, he attended earl Spencer to the king; and a privy-council, was held the next day upon the subject, when it was thought proper to reject the demands of the seamen, as exorbitant and unreasonable. Captain

Knight, of the Inflexible, carried down the refusal of the lords of the admiralty.

Our limits will not allow us to enter further into detail of this memorable mutiny, which threatened at one time the complete ruin of the country; it is, however, a well-known fact, that the favourable termination of this lamentable affair, was chiefly owing to the good sense and resolution of his majesty, added to the mild, though determined, measures, recommended by his paternal regard for a well-meaning and meritorious, though at that moment, a misguided class of his subjects.

His majesty even felt some reluctance to sign the death-warrant of Parker, the ring-leader of the mutiny, but it being intimated to him that the safety of the state required that an example should be made of so desperate a rebel, "then," said his majesty, "my private feelings must not be consulted."

When lord Northesk waited upon his majesty with the letter of Parker, which has been previously inserted, he perused it with apparently great attention, and returning it to earl Spencer, he said to lord Northesk, "It appears the tables are turned with you, my lord, you formerly commanded, but now you are commanded. I, however, am not ignorant of the character of a British sailor—he may be misled for a time, but he will eventually return to his duty; however, to give is one thing, to demand is another; and in the latter case, concession would be a fault."

This firmness on the part of his majesty inspired his ministers and officers with a degree of vigour and resistance to the demands of the mutineers, and ultimately led to the happy termination of this tremendous contest.

His majesty, although always particularly attentive to the regular army, did not forget the volunteer force, which was at this time so nobly

enrolled for the defence of the country, but took every opportunity of gratifying himself by their inspection, and of encouraging them by his notice. Amongst other corps, the London and Westminster light-horse particularly claimed his attention, and accordingly on the 26th of June, he appointed a review of them on Wimbledon-common, where, punctual to his time, he arrived at ten o'clock, followed by the queen and five princesses.

The troops were already in line; and his majesty, instantly quitting his post-chaise, mounted his charger, and rode up to the ground, accompanied by the commander-in-chief, being joined shortly after by the prince of Wales, and others of the royal sons. After the royal salute, the king proceeded along the lines for close inspection, and then took his station in front of the centre, when the whole corps passed by in squadrons, and afterwards by single files, and also went through the sword exercise, together with all the usual evolutions, in the most correct manner.

The military officers approved of the style in which this was conducted, and his majesty was graciously pleased to declare his high satisfaction both at the appearance and the conduct of the corps, which he sent expressly to the colonel by the commander-in-chief. The ground, throughout the day, was crowded with beauty and fashion. Every body appeared happy and pleased, and the whole went off to the entire satisfaction of an unexampled crowd of spectators. His majesty left the field immediately after the review, in order to meet the levee at St. James's.

The year 1797 was a glorious era for the British navy, as it was distinguished for some of the most splendid exploits which adorn the annals of the country. When admiral Duncan arrived at the Nore, after the battle of Camper-

down, his majesty determined to pay him the same compliment as he had paid to lord Howe, after his glorious victory of the 1st of June. Accordingly on the 28th of October, just at day-break, the king set off from Windsor-lodge, in his post-chaise and four, with the usual escort of light-horse, to Greenwich; where his majesty alighted at the governor's house, and was joined by his suite, the lords of the admiralty, commissioners of the navy, and other officers. A regiment of London militia were on duty at Greenwich, as well as a party of light-horse. The college-men were all drawn out to receive his majesty, and lined the stairs, &c., on his embarkation. Lord and lady Hood and daughter were the hosts on this occasion. After breakfast, his majesty went in his barge from the grand stairs of the hospital on board the Royal Charlotte yacht, captain Trollope, the lords of the admiralty and commissioners of the navy going on board the Princess Augusta and the William and Mary yachts, all of which got under weigh at the turn of the tide, and stood down the river.

As soon as his majesty came down to the stairs to get into the barge, the signal was given and a royal salute was fired by all the vessels in the reach, beginning at Deptford and running down to Woolwich; on his embarking in the yacht, the salute was repeated: the Tower guns also fired at the same time, in consequence of a signal.

His majesty's yacht was fitted up in a very superb style; in the fore-cabin was a chair and rich canopy of crimson velvet, with gold fringe, for the king to sit in; the floor was covered with carpeting; and the chairs for the noblemen who attended him were mahogany, with morocco leather seats. In the after-cabin was the state-bed for his majesty to sleep in, with sofas covered with crimson damask in the apart-

ments adjoining, for the gentlemen in waiting. The state-room was also elegantly fitted up for the reception of his majesty's attendants. On his majesty's going on board, he was received by the lords of the admiralty, and the royal standard was hoisted at the main, the lord high admiral's flag at the fore, and the union jack at mizen-top-gallant-mast-head of the Royal Charlotte; and the Augusta yacht (appropriated to the lords of the admiralty) hoisted the lord high admiral's flag. The wind blowing strong against them at E.N.E., they found it necessary to warp the Royal Charlotte down the river a considerable distance, ere they could venture to cast her loose. The procession was thus arranged:

A king's cutter.

THE

An armed brig. ROYAL CHARLOTTE. An armed brig.

The Princess Augusta.

The Mary.

A king's cutter.

The captains commanding were, captain Trollope, of the Royal Charlotte; Princess Augusta, captain Riou; Mary, captain Phillips.

His majesty did not reach Blackwall, owing to the contrary winds, till half-past twelve; when he was again saluted by a number of cannon; and the wind being two points to the northward of east, the royal yacht lay down the reach, without making a single tack, and was off Woolwich about half-past one, where similar honours were paid, and a very general and long-continued cannonade took place. His majesty was not able to get farther with the first tide than the galleons below Woolwich; where he waited with a perseverance worthy of the object of his voyage. The lords of the admiralty and gentlemen in waiting dined and supped with his majesty in the state-room, and at ten the king retired to his cabin, earl Spencer and the other lords going on board the Augusta to

sleep. The crowd on the river was immense; but, as might be expected, fell off in proportion to the distance.

It being found utterly impracticable to get farther than the Hope; after laying there till the evening, a council was held; and, on account of the important business which required his majesty's presence in town, it was resolved to return to London without accomplishing the object of the royal excursion. In the evening another signal was given to weigh; and the vessels anchored opposite Gravesend at eight o'clock in the evening, the review being put off till a more favourable opportunity.

At ten o'clock on the 1st of November, his majesty and the lords of the admiralty landed at Greenwich. After breakfasting with lord Hood, the king returned to town at one o'clock.

It was, however, by no means the intention of his majesty wholly to relinquish his design of reviewing the fleet; on the contrary, he resolved to seize upon the first opportunity of putting it in execution. The wishes of his majesty were, however, ultimately frustrated, by the fleet being called into active service.

When captain Trollope was first introduced to the king on board the Royal Charlotte yacht, his majesty thanked him in the most gracious manner, in his own name, and that of the kingdom, for his conduct; and, when the roughness of the weather made it unsafe to proceed (the king being thrown out of bed by the violence of the waves), his majesty said to captain Trollope, "Do not consider my person; but consider, if I cannot get to the Nore, the disappointment of those brave fellows, whom I long to thank, as I have you, for defending me, protecting my people, and preserving my country."

On his majesty leaving the yacht, he wished to reward the gallantry of captain Trollope, who commanded the Russell in the late glorious

action, and who had so eminently distinguished himself, when he commanded the Glatton, on beating off five French frigates; he therefore signified his intention to captain Trollope of conferring an honour upon him, which was the highest he could give, except a peerage—this was the honour of Knight Banneret, of which we believe, there was only one other distinguished officer on whom it had been conferred. Captain Trollope modestly begged leave to decline that honour, which refusal is, however, generally considered by royalty as having the samemeaning as the *nolo episcopari* of the bishops. The gallant captain was accordingly introduced by lord Spencer, and the ceremony of knight-ing was performed. His majesty then bowed in the most courteous manner, saying, "Rise sir Henry Trollope; I wish you health and long life."

At this moment, lieutenant Cleveley, well-known as a marine draftsman, and whose pictures of the morn and eve of the 1st of June, 1794, have been much admired, was taking some sketches from the yacht, when lord Hugh Seymour (then Conway) told him he must carry his drawings to the king. Lord Spencer introduced him by the name of Cleverley, his majesty instantly exclaimed, "No! No! that's not it, my lord, though it is something like it—'tis Cleveley. I am very glad, sir, to see you among us; and shall have great pleasure in viewing your excellent drawings. Elizabeth has shewn us some of them before."

On this occasion, one of the lords of the admiralty, who attended the king, suffered sadly from the "billowy motion." His majesty could not help being greatly diverted with the circumstance. "What! what!" said he; "a lord of the navy board sea sick! strange, very strange."

The pious heart of the venerable monarch was now filled with gratitude to the God of

battles, for the victorious results of the several important naval actions under Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan; and in order to mark that gratitude more fully to the nation, and to the world at large, he determined on a day of general thanksgiving, which took place on the 19th of December.

Never, perhaps, was there so fine a spectacle exhibited; and the recollection of the ever-memorable events which gave rise to it, added in no small degree to the gaiety of the scene. The remarkable beauty and clearness of the day (the finest which had taken place for many weeks), greatly increased the splendour and brilliancy of the spectacle. Long before daylight the houses through which the procession passed began to fill.

The military, consisting of the three brigades of foot-guards, the horse-guards, not immediately employed about the king's person, the volunteer corps of London and Westminster light-horse, came upon duty at seven o'clock; the latter assembled in Hyde-park, and before eight moved down Constitution-hill, on their route through Pall-mall and to the city. His majesty, seeing them pass, did them the honour to require them to countermarch by the gate next Pimlico, where his majesty was pleased to stand to see them march past him. His majesty was most graciously pleased to express his high consideration of the corps, in the most gratifying terms. About seven, the military moved to their stations in the different streets which they were appointed to line. The foot-guards took the duty from St. James's to Temple-bar, inside of which the streets were lined by the two regiments of city militia, the two regiments of East-India volunteers, and several other corps of the same description, of whose military and decorous conduct, the most decisive testimony was given.

At eight o'clock, the seamen and marines, chosen to escort the colours, formed before the admiralty. They were fine-looking men; and the trophies of their bravery were labelled—"June, 1794." "February, 1797." "October, 1797," &c.

The procession began with two colours taken from the French, three from the Spaniards, and four from the Dutch; the colours carried on artillery waggons, and each set followed by a party of naval lieutenants on foot, who had served in the several engagements in which they were won. A very large detachment of marines, with music playing, followed; and the whole corps were ranged in the cathedral from the west door to the choir.

The following admirals, in carriages, brought up the rear of this part of the procession: lord viscount Duncan, sir Charles Thompson, sir Richard Onslow, sir Alan Gardner, sir Thomas Paisley, sir Roger Curtis, sir Horatio Nelson, lord Hugh Seymour, Caldwell, Waldegrave, Hamilton, Goodall, Young, Lindsay, Gambier, Bazeley, captain sir Henry Trollope. This was by far the most interesting part of the spectacle. The deportment of these gallant sons of the ocean was extremely dignified.

The lords and commons having assembled at eight, their procession began soon afterwards in the following order:

The commons in carriages,
Followed by the Speaker in his state-carriage, with his
mace-bearer and chaplain.
Three knight's marshalsmen.
Clerks of the crown.
Masters in chancery.
The twelve judges.
The peers in the order of their rank,
The youngest baron first, and the senior duke bringing
up the rear.
Lord high chancellor

These parts of the procession having reached

St. Paul's before nine, the firing of the Park guns announced, soon after ten, that their majesties had entered their carriage at St. James's; and the royal procession began in the following order, each carriage being drawn by six caparisoned horses, except that of their majesties, which was drawn by eight creams.

Household of the duke of Gloucester,

The duke,

Household of the duke of York,

The duke.

Household of the duke of Clarence,

The duke.

QUEEN'S HOUSEHOLD.

First coach—Ladies of the bedchamber

Second coach—The maids of honour

Third coach—Equerries.

Fourth coach—Ladies of the bedchamber.

Fifth coach—Master of the horse.

KING'S HOUSEHOLD.

Sixth coach—Gentlemen ushers of the privy-chamber.

Seventh coach—Equerries.

Eighth coach—Lord steward, &c.

Ninth coach—Lords of the bedchamber.

Tenth coach—Master of the horse.

THEIR MAJESTIES,

With the mistress of the robes to the queen, and the lady of the bedchamber in waiting.

PRINCESSES.

Attendants on the princesses.

The princesses were dressed in purple satins, trimmed with gold, and wore bandeaus of purple and gold in their hair.

The horses of the twenty carriages of state, amounting to one hundred and twenty-two, formed, perhaps, the finest equestrian sight ever seen in any country. Those of the duke of Gloucester were bays, of the duke of York white, of the duke of Clarence roans, of their majesty's household black.

The crowd in the streets, from St. James's to the cathedral, was immense; but the carriage-way was kept entirely clear for the procession, which reached the cathedral without

the smallest delay or interruption. The city militia, light-horse association, and the gentlemen of the artillery company, kept the strictest regularity in the city; while the various detachments of troops in other quarters, added to the grandeur of the scene, and preserved the completest order.

During the procession of the house of commons down the left side of Fleet-street, the lord-mayor, the two sheriffs, four of the common-council (as representatives of the corporation) in their carriages, preceded by the marshals and city officers, went to Temple-bar, where they waited to receive his majesty; to whom the lord-mayor delivered the city sword; which being graciously returned by the king, the lord-mayor, with the sheriffs and city deputation, all elegantly dressed in their gowns of office, rode bare-headed before his majesty to the cathedral church.

His majesty was received with every mark of attention, respect, and applause, which his goodness of heart, and love for his people, so eminently merited. Particular marks of respect were also bestowed on many others; among whom Mr. Pitt was particularly noticed; the plaudits bestowed on him silenced and overpowered the hisses and clamours of a few malcontents, planted in different places apparently to insult him.

When the procession reached St. Paul's, the lieutenants, taking the flags from the waggons, attended by the seamen and marines, divided themselves for their captains to pass up to the body of the church, to their seats in the galleries on each side of the choir. The colours, on being brought within the church, were carried in procession under the loudest shouts of applause, and grand martial music, to the middle of the dome, where they were placed in a circle. The princesses, with the dukes of York

and Clarence, prince Ernest, and the duke of Gloucester, and their respective suites, on their alighting, formed a circle within the church, regularly from the great west door, with the lord-mayor, sheriffs, aldermen, and the admirals on the opposite side, where they waited to receive their majesties. The common-council of London, in their mazarine gowns, were ranged with their ladies, in two spacious galleries, which filled the semicircle of the dome; and, from the number of beautiful women present, added not a little to the grandeur of the spectacle.

The king, on his alighting at the church, was received by the bishops of London and Lincoln, who walked on each side of his majesty, preceded by the heralds at arms, and prebendaries of the cathedral. Her majesty, led by earl Morton, followed with her suite; and the princes and princesses, according to their rank, with their attendants, in procession. On the arrival of their majesties and the princesses within the circle formed by the colours, they were lowered; and the royal family respectively made their obeisances to the company assembled in the different parts of the church, which were returned with the loudest acclamations and congratulations ever perhaps heard on any occasion.

The service was chaunted by the minor canons, the lessons by the sub-dean. At the end of the first lesson, the flag-officers entered in two divisions, right and left of the king's chair, the ends of the flags being supported by those officers, who immediately followed the bearers in regular succession, advancing to the altar, to deposit the trophies of our naval success, which his majesty seemed to view with much attention; and the whole of the spectators appeared to partake in the royal feelings on this most happy occasion.

A very excellent sermon was preached by the bishop of Lincoln, dean of St. Paul's, from 2 Samuel xxii., 1-3.

And David spake unto the Lord the words of this song, in the day that the Lord had delivered him out of the hands of all his enemies.

The lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.

And God of my rock, in him will I trust; he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation.

An anthem was sung, the same as when queen Anne went to St. Paul's.

At half-past two o'clock, a signal being given from St. Paul's that the service was over, the park guns were fired.

In returning, the procession of the royal family's carriages was reversed, their majesties going first. The whole conduct of the procession, and the business of the day was such as reflected great credit on those who superintended its arrangements. Not any accident happened, that could tend to throw a cloud over the splendour of the day. The soldiers who lined the streets conducted themselves with the utmost decorum. The populace thronged into the streets from all the avenues, and pressed upon the military with great force; but the latter did not suffer themselves to be provoked into any want of humanity; but kept the populace from pressing into the line of procession, without the least appearance of heat, amidst all the confusion which such a spectacle must naturally have produced.

The year 1798 was most inauspicious to the internal tranquillity of the kingdom; Ireland was in a state of open rebellion, the main object of which was the separation of that country from Great Britain, with the avowed intention of treating it as a conquered country. The extent of this famous rebellion may be gained from the report of the secret committee of the house of commons of Ireland, in which it ap-

pears, from the examinations of Dr. M'Nevin, Mr. Arthur O'Connor, Mr. Neilson, and Counsellor Emmet, that an executive directory of the Irish Union was instituted at an early period of the discontents (1791), of which lord Edward Fitzgerald, Dr. M'Nevin, Arthur O'Connor, and Mr. Emmet, were members; that in the year 1796 lord Edward Fitzgerald and Mr. Arthur O'Connor set out for Paris, in order to negotiate with the executive directory of France for the invasion of Ireland by a French force; but that, fearful of a discovery of their intention, they proceeded no further than the Rhine, where they met general Hoche, to whom they communicated the object of their mission: that that officer formed arrangements with the executive directory; that a fleet, with general Hoche and a formidable army on board, was, in consequence of these arrangements, sent to Ireland in the month of December following; but not being expected by the directory of the union till the spring of 1797, the people were not prepared to receive the enemy when they arrived at Bantry-bay. That Dr. M'Nevin afterwards went to France on a similar mission, and succeeded in obtaining a promise from the directory, that another attempt should be made; that a fleet was accordingly fitted out in the Texel, and several thousand men embarked on board of it, for the purpose of invading Ireland; that the troops, after remaining some time on board, were disembarked; that the fleet, which was under the command of admiral de Winter, put to sea without the troops (probably for the purpose of giving battle to the British squadron, and with the hope of clearing the way for the transports to come out); and that the result was, the glorious victory achieved by admiral Duncan on the memorable 11th of October. It appears also from the report, that the real object of the union was all along the accomplish-

ment of a revolution, and the separation of Ireland from Great Britain; that Parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation, were used as mere delusive veils to cover their designs; that the French directory, between whom and the directory of the union a regular correspondence was for some time kept up, on being applied to for a loan to enable the promoters of the rebellion to effect the proposed revolution, refused to comply with the request, unless they were permitted to send an army of sufficient force to take possession of the country as a conquest to their arms; and, finally, that there was at that time an agent from the united Irishmen residing in Paris. These are the leading points of the report of the secret committee, and which leave no doubt of the real designs of the chief actors concerned in the rebellion.

The spirit of party had now risen to an alarming height, and it was unhappily fomented by some of the most eminent politicians of the day. His majesty, however, determined to mark his displeasure at the conduct of one of the principal leaders of the tumultuous proceedings which then disgraced the country, and accordingly on the 25th of May, a board of privy council was held at St. James's, when the clerk of the council having produced the book containing the list of privy-councillors, and having laid it before the king, he instantly took his pen and drew it across the name of Charles James Fox, and returned the book to the clerk without making any comment whatever.

This extraordinary act of his majesty was attributed to a toast which had been given by Mr. Fox, a few days before, at a meeting of the whig-club, when, at the close of his speech, he said, "I'll give you a toast, than which, I think, there cannot be a better, according to the principles of this club—I mean *The sovereignty of the people of Great Britain.*"

A nobleman, high in rank, a very short time before, had been dismissed from all offices, for giving as a toast, "Our sovereign, the people." Although Mr. Fox's toast was evidently paraphrastic, the object was too clear to be mistaken.

The erasure of Mr. Fox's name from the privy-council gave rise to an excellent bon mot which was uttered by one of the most celebrated wits of the day, who being one day in conversation with his majesty, the discourse turned upon the manner in which Mr. Fox was said to bear the mark of his sovereign's displeasure. "I know not how he may bear it," said the wit, "but I can only compare him to a melted guinea," "How so, how so," asked his majesty. "Because," replied the wit, "he has lost your majesty's countenance."

Mr. Fox was, however, not the only celebrated character who was, at this time, visited with his majesty's displeasure. The name of Henry Grattan was also erased from the list of the privy-councillors, in consequence of the part which he took in the tumultuous proceedings in Ireland.

Although disloyalty and rebellion were at this time prevalent in the country, yet there were many who were not dismayed by the perilous aspect of the times, but who nobly stepped forward to assist the state in its alarming exigency. The actual revenue of the country was found inadequate to the pressing and continual demands which were made upon it, and the patriotism of the country was called into action to make up the deficiency. His majesty set the example by a subscription of 20,000*l.* from the privy-purse, and this was rapidly followed by subscriptions from every part of the kingdom amounting in the end to a very considerable sum, and which tended materially to check the spirit of disloyalty and

disaffection in the minds of those who had presumed upon a complete revolution in the affairs of the country.

The peculiar friendliness and domestic kindness of the king were especially manifested at this time, on the occasion of the death of prince Frederick, second son of the Stadtholder, who expired at Vienna about the middle of January 1799, from a malignant fever caught in his visits to the military hospitals, a point of duty never neglected by him, notwithstanding his high, civil, and military rank, he having entered into the Austrian service when his family were forced to fly from Holland. He was the favourite son of the princess of Orange; and our venerable monarch was aware of the fact, and consequently much shocked when he read an account of his untimely demise in a French paper. The royal family were then in town at Buckingham-House; and the king, with much feeling, communicated it privately to the queen, who instantly approved of his suggestion of inviting the Orange family to a hasty visit, in order that he might communicate the fatal intelligence with more delicacy to the parents, than could be done through the columns of an English paper, in which they were likely first to see it on the ensuing day. The invitation was instantly sent, and accepted; and the affair most feelingly imparted by the king to the unhappy parents, who were detained as guests at the queen's house for several weeks, and comforted by the most marked attentions of the whole royal family, until the first emotions of parental grief had abated.

The year 1799 was particularly remarkable for the attention which his majesty paid to the volunteer establishment of the metropolis, and the adjacent counties. He was accustomed to call those associations emphatically the Life-Blood of the country, and he never omitted an

occasion on which he could testify his approbation of the loyalty and patriotism, on which those establishments were founded.

On the 4th of June, being his majesty's birthday, the several associations of the metropolis and its neighbourhood, consisting of sixty-five well-equipped corps, and amounting to upwards of 8,000 effective men, assembled in Hyde-Park, where they were reviewed by the king. The Temple Association, commanded by captain Graham, was the first that entered the park; it arrived at seven o'clock, during a heavy shower of rain, which continued incessantly from the time it left the Temple Gardens. Several other corps followed soon after; and at half past eight the whole were on the ground. The necessary dispositions, agreeably to the official regulations, were then made, and about ten minutes past nine his majesty appeared, attended by the prince of Wales, the dukes of York, Kent, Cumberland, and Gloucester, a number of general officers, and a formidable detachment of the Life-Guards. The line being formed, a cannon was fired, to announce the approach of the king; on which all the corps immediately shouldered in perfect order, and the artillery then fired a royal salute of twenty-one guns. A second gun was fired on his majesty's arrival in front of the line, and each corps immediately presented arms, with drums beating, and music playing. A third cannon was fired, as the signal for shouldering, which was promptly obeyed. His majesty having passed along the line, and returned by a central point in front, a fourth cannon was fired, as a signal to load; and upon the fifth gun being fired, the different corps began to fire volleys in succession from right to left. The same loading and firing were repeated, upon the sixth and seventh cannons being fired; in all fifty-nine rounds. On the eighth cannon being fired,

three cheers were given, and the music played "God save the King." The corps then passed his majesty in grand divisions, in a most excellent manner, under the direction of General Dundas, who headed them on horseback; after which they filed off to the stations respectively allotted for them. The whole of the evolutions pointed out to them in the general orders having been performed, and another royal salute of twenty-one guns fired, his majesty, after expressing the highest satisfaction at the martial appearance and excellent conduct of this loyal and patriotic army, departed from the ground at a quarter before one, amidst the joyous shouts and affectionate greetings of the people, who assembled on this occasion to the amount of upwards of 100,000, including all the beauty and fashion of the metropolis. The sight was truly grand and highly grateful; and, notwithstanding the evolutions were considerably impeded by the high wind and some rain, the whole were performed in a manner that reflected much credit upon every corps present, whose conduct fully entitled them to the very handsome compliment which his royal highness the commander-in-chief, paid them, by order of his majesty, in the Gazette of that evening. The ground was kept clear by the London and Westminster, and Southwark volunteer corps of cavalry, who preserved the lines from being infringed by the immense multitude who crowded the park.

Her majesty and the princesses, accompanied by the countess of Harrington and lady M. Stanhope, viewed this splendid assemblage of citizen soldiers, armed in defence of the best of sovereigns, and the happiest and most perfect constitution upon earth, from the house of lady Holderness, in Park-lane, and that of lord Cathcart, at both of which they received refreshments.

His majesty was so well pleased with this military exhibition, that he intimated his intention of inspecting all the corps in and about the metropolis; accordingly every arrangement was made for a grand exhibition, on the 21st of the month.

On that day, between eight and nine o'clock, his majesty, mounted on a beautiful white charger, and followed by the male branches of the royal family, a crowd of general officers, &c., went from Buckingham-house to inspect all the volunteer corps in different streets of the metropolis. He passed over Westminster-bridge, and proceeded by the Obelisk to Blackfriars-bridge, on the centre of which he was met by the lord-mayor and aldermen, who afterwards rode before him, the lord-mayor carrying the sword of state. His majesty proceeded through Bridge-street, St. Paul's-square, Cornhill, &c. in front of the different associations, making a circle to the Artillery-ground, where the prince of Wales, as colonel, appeared at the head of the artillery company, and thence to the lord chancellor's, in Upper Guildford-street, where all the royal family breakfasted; after which his majesty again mounted, and advanced towards the Foundling Hospital, where he met the Tower Hamlets and Mile End volunteers, who had been disappointed in their expectation of inspection at White-chapel in the morning. In the court-yard of the hospital several corps were reviewed; after which his majesty galloped, by Mary-le-bone and Paddington, towards Hyde-park, where the review concluded; and the royal party returned to the Queen's palace at five in the evening, followed by an immense concourse of general officers, and all the suites of the different royal branches in attendance.

It was well observed, that the metropolis of the British empire never presented a prouder

or more delightful spectacle. The streets, windows, and house-tops, were every where crowded with people, all vying who should most loudly express their feelings of respect and affection for his majesty's person; and, certainly, the venerable monarch never before experienced a day of more heartfelt gratification, if his sensations might be judged of from his countenance, which beamed forth hilarity and happiness. Many of the spectators, indeed, were equally affected, even to tears of loyal joy; especially in the chapel of the Foundling Hospital, where the children's hymn, and "God save the King," were sung before the whole of the royal family.

On the day subsequent to this grand inspection of the volunteers, his majesty ordered the duke of York to express the heartfelt satisfaction which every part of the conduct of those patriotic troops had excited in his mind. He assured them that it was to him a source of uncommon gratification to know that the general display of loyalty and public spirit was the genuine offspring of our happy constitution, so eminently calculated to preserve the happiness, and to increase the prosperity of his people.

His majesty then assured them that he had ever made it the principal study of his life to watch over and maintain, unimpaired, those safeguards which the laws of this favoured country have provided for the security of its civil and religious rights; and he was therefore the more particularly anxious, indeed eager, to embrace that opportunity of expressing the just pride he derived from the gratifying feeling that his uniform endeavours, through a long reign, to promote the happiness of his subjects, had insured to him the marked continuance of their loyalty and affection.

His majesty also expressly directed the home secretary of state to write to the lord-mayor,

and to state the very great satisfaction which he felt from the dutiful and affectionate attention of the citizens of London, during the course of his progress in reviewing the different stations of the volunteers; also, that he attributed the order and regularity, every where so remarkable, not only to the good disposition of the people, but also to the judicious regulations of the magistracy.

On the 4th of July, another military exhibition took place at Wimbledon, when his majesty reviewed several of the volunteer corps of the county of Surrey; the line, which was very extensive, consisting of twelve corps of cavalry, and twenty-four of infantry, amounting to 2,300 men, commanded by the duke of York in person, assisted by lord Chatham, and many other officers of high military rank.

After the usual inspection, and marching salutes, the firings were conducted with great precision, which was particularly noticed and commended by his majesty, and by all the royal dukes in his suite; and the whole scene afforded much pleasure and satisfaction to the queen and princesses, who were on the ground during the whole of the day, and seemed particularly affected by the demonstrations of patriotism and loyalty displayed by the troops and the surrounding multitudes.

At the close of the review, the Surrey yeomanry cavalry went through some evolutions, which the king praised highly; and the whole royal party, with their suite, went, agreeably to invitation, to breakfast with lord Melville, where they remained until three o'clock; and then set off to dine with the duke of Cumberland at Kew.

Amongst the corps reviewed on this occasion was the Croydon volunteers, and the officer who carried the colours of the Croydon corps was so taken up with gazing on his majesty, that he

forgot to pay the usual compliment of lowering the colours. Some time after, his majesty happened to be passing through a town in Kent, where a corps of volunteers was on permanent duty; and the captain's guard having turned out, in honour of his majesty, "What corps—what corps?" asked his majesty. The officer answered, "The Croydon volunteers, may it please your majesty." "Ah! ah!" replied his majesty, smiling, "the Croydon volunteers: I remember them well at Wimbledon. You came off with *flying colours* that day."

His majesty now determined to review the volunteer associations of the county of Kent, and preparations were accordingly made at lord Romney's seat, in the Moat-park, at Maidstone. The late earl Grey was then commander-in-chief of the southern district, and through him orders were issued for assembling all the corps of yeoman cavalry and volunteer infantry, to the amount of five thousand five hundred men: whilst lord Romney, at his sole expense, gave the necessary directions for the entertainment of the royal party, of a brilliant circle of nobility and gentry, and of the whole of the corps to be reviewed.

The review ground was in the park: and in front of the intended line a sumptuous pavilion, decorated with flowers, was erected for the royal reception, near to which was another for the entertainment of the suite and other invited guests; and the town of Maidstone not only displayed the royal standard on the town-hall and church, but also erected a most splendid triumphal arch in honour of the day.

The 1st of August was the day appointed for this military fête, on which day the king, queen, and princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, accompanied by the countess of Harrington, set off in two carriages, at half-past five o'clock, from Kew-palace, for lord Romney's seat in the

Moat-park, Maidstone. The royal party stopped to breakfast at earl Camden's seat at Riverhead, where they were met by the prince of Wales, duke of Cumberland, and numbers of the nobility, and the king's equerries in waiting.

The royal family reached the ground at twelve o'clock, on which above five thousand of the volunteers of the county of Kent were drawn up, under the command of their different officers, and his royal highness the duke of York. Earl Camden gave the word of command to his own corps of cavalry, and lord Romney to the infantry corps.

The regiments went through thir exercise in a manner highly satisfactory to his majesty, who expressed the great pleasure he experienced in viewing so fine a body of men.

After the review, marquees were erected on the lawn for their majesties and the nobility to dine, and tables in view of the royal tents were laid out for the volunteers. The entertainment, to which six thousand five hundred persons sat down, consisted of every delicacy of the season.

It was not till six o'clock that their majesties and the princesses took leave of their noble host, on their return to Kew. The town of Maidstone was brilliantly illuminated in the evening, and a grand ball was given at the Town-hall.

The strength of the different associations of the county of Kent at the royal inspection, according to a return, amounted to 5,721. To give an idea of the dinner provided for the companies of volunteers, there were—

- 3 Score lambs, in quarters.
- 200 Dishes of roasted beef.
- 700 Fowls, three in a dish.
- 220 Meat pies.
- 200 Hams and 300 tongues
- 220 Fruit pies.
- 220 Dishes of boiled beef.
- 220 Joints of roasted veal.

Seven pipes of port were bottled off, and sixteen butts of ale, and as much small beer was also placed in large vessels, to supply the company.

Towards the latter end of August, his majesty determined to retire from this military bustle and parade, to the more tranquil scenes of Weymouth, and accordingly on the 27th of August, the royal family set off at day-break, breakfasted at Hartford-bridge, and passed through Winchester and the New-forest. They were received on their route with every demonstration of loyalty, and arrived safe at Weymouth the same evening, to the great joy of the inhabitants.

We will not enter into any enlarged detail of the royal parties, of the entertainments in private, or of the general pursuits of the royal family, as they assimilate, in a great measure, with those that have been detailed in a previous part of this history. The same affability and condescension were exhibited by his majesty on all occasions, that he exhibited himself in public, and he mixed with his subjects with all the hearty fellowship of the private gentleman.

He devoted his Sundays as usual to a close attendance on divine worship, and the evenings, when the weather permitted, he was sure to be seen on the esplanade, conversing with the nobility and gentry, and testifying his pleasure at being seen by the crowds, who generally flocked on a Sunday from all parts of the country, with the sole view of catching a glimpse at their sovereign.

It was, however, a subject of frequent regret to his majesty, that the curiosity of the crowd often exposed particular individuals, and especially children, to imminent danger. An instance of this occurred one morning, when on the royal family going to the pier-head to em-

bark on a cruise, a child was run over by a servant on horseback, and considerably hurt. His majesty, who witnessed the whole transaction, reprimanded the servant most severely, and issued his order on the spot, that the child should have every care bestowed upon it which the place could afford.

The San Fiorenzo frigate had been appointed to attend his majesty; and when that ship arrived, the king walked down to the pier to receive captain (sir H. B.) Neale, on his coming on shore, hailing him in the most friendly and familiar way, and congratulating him in not having received any damage when the ship took the ground a short time previous. The midshipman in the boat was the honourable G. Poulett, whom the king knew personally, and instantly recognised him, saying, "Well George, I am glad to see you, my lad; and am happy to find your brave comrades are all safe!"—thus making himself beloved by all who heard him.

The arrival of the frigate now afforded opportunities for several maritime excursions, the royal party often dining on board in the most familiar way; but returning on shore always in the evening, when the king made it a custom to inspect the picquet guard, and sometimes to give the counter-sign for the night's duty.

The partiality of his majesty for the navy was certainly very great, and on one occasion, during his stay at Weymouth, he appeared to take great pride in it. He was one evening at the theatre when the account of the capture of the *La Vestale*, French frigate, by the *Clyde*, was brought to him. On receiving the despatch, he stood up in his box, and the contents having been communicated to the audience, "Rule Britannia" was loudly called for from every part of the house, and this fine national anthem was afterwards repeated with great applause.

The happiness of the royal family, and particularly of his majesty, was now augmented by the arrival of our late lamented princess Charlotte, whose health had been, for some time, in rather an unfavourable state, and for the restoration of which sea-bathing had been prescribed. Indeed, a considerable number of the nobility now crowded to Weymouth, which was by no means disagreeable to his majesty, on the contrary, he seemed to enjoy the bustle, and shewed even an anxiety to increase it, by military inspections, and reviews of the troops in the vicinity, or by aquatic excursions, attended with all the pomp and ceremony of salutes, in which he took great delight.

On the first day of August a grand review of the First, or Royal Dragoons, took place on Monckton-hill, about five miles from Weymouth, whither his majesty went, accompanied by his family, and escorted by a party of the Scotch Greys; after which an elegant collation was served up at the barracks, and accepted by the whole of the royal party then at Weymouth, except the princess Amelia, who was too ill yet to partake of these excursions; and of course remained at Gloucester-lodge, accompanied by the since lamented princess Charlotte, who had arrived there a few days previous.

On the 3d of September, whilst the king and princess Sophia were riding out on horseback on the Lulworth-downs, a messenger arrived from town, with the agreeable intelligence of a naval victory; but stopping only to inform her majesty of the news, set off, accompanied by a groom, to find the king on the road, whom he met at seven miles distance: his majesty, however, not having the key of the despatch-box with him, was obliged to be content with a verbal account of the victory until his return, and on his way back to Weymouth was met by the queen and princesses, who had set off

in their sociables, in order to congratulate him on the important success.

After reading the despatches at the lodge, his majesty, with his accustomed good humour, and no doubt with a due share of patriotic pride, walked through the streets of Weymouth, speaking to every body whom he knew, and relating all the particulars of the glad tidings. The ensuing day was appropriately spent in a nautical excursion; when every naval honour suitable to royalty, and to the happy occasion was paid to his majesty: and on the return of the party in the evening, all the troops in the town and vicinity were drawn up to receive them on the sands, when a *feu de joye* was fired as the boats rowed along shore, in front of the line. The general rejoicings in the evening manifested every thing that loyalty or patriotism could display.

On the 9th of September a council was held, all the ministers coming from town, for the calling parliament together; and on the succeeding day a grand naval fête, consisting of a ball and dinner party, was given on board the *Anson*, by captain and lady Charlotte Durham, which the royal family honoured with their presence, the princesses joining in the dance, and the king mixing in all the gaiety of the scene with his usual affability, and examining and inquiring into all the minutiae of naval decoration; the *Anson* being dressed in the colours of all different nations, intermingled with wreaths of laurels and variegated flowers, so that no part of the ship could be seen but the deck. The fineness of the day contributed greatly to the grandeur of the spectacle, as it drew forth great numbers of the gentry in pleasure-boats on the water, who kept sailing round the frigate all the time their majesties were on board.

Sundry reviews took place in the ensuing week, with visits to various gentlemen's seats

in the vicinity, the evenings being passed either at the theatre or at the rooms, where his majesty seemed even to enjoy himself as a private individual: whilst the royal party was now enlivened by a visit from the prince of Wales, who had come down to see his parents, and to ascertain himself, the improving health of his interesting child.

On the 23d of September, some urgent political business calling his majesty to town, he set off after the play in his travelling coach, accompanied by earl Poulett and general Garth, leaving the queen and princesses until the 27th, when he arrived at half-past seven in the morning, having travelled through a most tempestuous night, indeed, through a perfect hurricane, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and heavy rain, which rendered it almost impossible for the servants to urge the horses forward. The night, too, was intensely dark; and the lamps of the carriage being blown out, it was with some difficulty that they reached Wood-yate's inn for a temporary shelter.

Notwithstanding his fatigue, his majesty mounted his horse immediately after breakfast, and joined a hunting party, with the Rev. Mr. Pickard's harriers.

Another review of the Somersetshire militia took place on the 2nd of October; and of the Shropshire two days afterwards; the royal family on each occasion partaking of military refreshments with the utmost ease and affability, free from all form, or even etiquette, and joining in all the hilarity of the scene.

Some days afterwards, the effects of this royal condescension were seen, when the two militia regiments were drawn up in front of the esplanade, where his majesty inspected them; after which, the act of parliament, respecting volunteering for foreign service, was read to them, and a number, both of officers and men,

stepped forward to enrol themselves for more active exertions in the cause of their king and country. The king himself took great interest in the scene, and particularly desired that two of the tallest volunteers from the Shropshire should enter the Coldstream, or second regiment of Foot Guards.

On Sunday, the 13th of October, the whole royal party went to Stacie's rooms, where they took leave of the nobility and gentry, previous to their intended departure; and early the next morning they set off for Windsor: the men-of-war sailed on different services; the troops broke up camp, and Weymouth was deserted.

The year 1800 opened with one of the most important events which distinguish the reign of George III., and this was the union of Ireland with England. Our limits will not permit us to enter into a long detail of this memorable union, and we shall therefore merely confine ourselves to the leading circumstances, the happy issue of which reflects so much credit upon the political sagacity of his majesty's ministers.

The proceedings of the British parliament relative to a union with Ireland, had been long rendered abortive, by the spirit, or the precipitancy of the Irish legislature. They opposed with violence, and dismissed with contempt a proposition which they considered as death to themselves; and the British ministry found too late, that they had been deficient in address, or perhaps too parsimonious in their arrangements to secure a measure which embraced a variety of conflicting interests. With his usual boldness, however, the British minister determined to persevere. Though rejected by the Irish parliament, a series of resolutions were adopted in that of Great Britain, on a basis of the proposed union, and the lord lieutenant of Ireland closed the session with a hope that the measure would be reconsidered and adopted,

in such a manner as might be most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of both nations. Of the means which were employed in the course of the recess, to facilitate the intended arrangement, it would be prolix in this place to dilate upon. The conciliatory spirit, and the popular character of the lord-lieutenant, in the course of a political tour, might make some proselytes; and some seats in the Irish parliament were vacated by persons who had pledged themselves to oppose the union, and filled by others less hostile to that favourite measure. At the meeting of the Irish parliament considerable activity was displayed by the partisans on each side for the purpose of procuring signatures; and at a very early period, the table of the house of commons was loaded with petitions. The business was formally introduced, on the 5th of February 1800, by a message from the lord-lieutenant, in which his excellency stated, that he had it in command from his majesty to lay before both houses of legislature, the resolutions of the British parliament, and to express his majesty's wish that they would take the same into their most serious consideration, &c. After a long and spirited debate the ministry prevailed, by a majority of forty-three, for taking his majesty's message into consideration on the Wednesday following. The great abilities of Mr. Grattan, which had been voluntarily cast into obscurity, were once more brought before the public on this interesting occasion. In a debate which took place on the 17th of January, on proposing the first article of the union, he opposed the measure with such a degree of vehemence, that the chancellor of the exchequer accused him of associating with traitors, and of disaffection to government. The reply of Grattan was so pointed and severe, that the chancellor conceived himself under a necessity of resenting it by a chal-

leage. Five shots were exchanged, and the chancellor (Mr. Corry) was wounded in the arm. The question, however, was carried by a majority of 161 against 115, and as the discussion proceeded, the numbers of opposition appeared to diminish. The last struggle, as it may be deemed, was made on the 13th of March, when sir John Parnell moved to petition his majesty to call a new parliament, in order that the sense of their constituents might be more fully ascertained; but this motion was over-ruled by a majority of 46.

In the mean time the business proceeded with little opposition in the house of lords, and on the 24th of March that house adopted the whole of the articles of union with few alterations. On the Friday following, both houses waited on his excellency with a joint address to that effect, which was afterwards transmitted to Great Britain, and no time was lost by the ministers in submitting the measure anew to the British parliament.

As the principal arguments which were advanced in the Irish legislature were repeated in that of Great Britain, we have confined ourselves to this short summary of the proceedings in the former, as we can with more conformity to our general plan, report them more at large as they were stated in our own parliament.

On the 2d of April the duke of Portland delivered the following message from his majesty to the house of lords.

“GEORGE R.

It is with the most sincere satisfaction that his majesty finds himself enabled to communicate to this house the joint address of his lords and commons of Ireland, laying before his majesty certain resolutions which contain the terms proposed by them for an entire union between the two kingdoms. His majesty, therefore, earnestly recommends to this house, to take all such further

steps as may best tend to the speedy and complete execution of a work so happily begun, and so interesting to the security of his majesty's subjects, and to the general strength and prosperity of the British empire.”

The bill met with some opposition in its progress, in both houses, but it was subsequently carried; and on the 2d of July, 1800, the royal assent was given to the legislative union of England and Ireland.

We must now revert to circumstances of a more private nature, but which are attended with no common degree of interest, as they embrace one of the most remarkable events of his late majesty's life.

It was on the 15th of May, that the grenadier battalion of the guards had a grand field day in Hyde-park, in the presence of his majesty, the earls of Chatham and Chesterfield, lord Cathcart, general Gwynn, and colonel Calvert.

Soon after the commencement of their evolutions, the battalion were firing from centre to flank, colonel Wynyard giving the word of command, when a gentleman of the name of Ongley, of the allotment department in the navy-office, a spectator, received a musket ball through the upper part of his left thigh and fell. His majesty, who was only twenty-three feet distance from him, immediately rode up, and ordered every assistance to be given him, likewise requesting lord Cathcart to procure his address. He was then conveyed in a coach to his residence in George's Row, Chelsea, where surgeon Nixon dressed his wound, and gave the most favourable hopes of his speedy recovery.

The accident, it was asserted, proceeded entirely from neglect in the soldier, who had unintentionally left a ball cartridge in his cartridge; and his majesty, as well as the several officers present, seemed perfectly satisfied that

it was in no respect the effect of design. The king remained on the ground till the conclusion of the review, and was shortly after waited upon by colonel Wynyard, with a favourable account of the state of Mr. Ongley's wound. The following bulletin on this subject was issued in the course of the afternoon :

" Horse Guards, May 15.

This morning, during the field day of the grenadier battalion of the Foot Guards, in Hyde Park, a shot was accidentally discharged from the ranks, which unfortunately wounded a gentleman of the name of Ongley, who was amongst the spectators. The shot perforated Mr. Ongley's thigh, but did not injure the bone or arteries. His majesty directed the military surgeon present to examine and dress Mr. Ongley's wound, and was much gratified by the favourable report made by Mr. Nixon, the surgeon of the grenadiers. His majesty, on coming from the field, sent his commands to Mr. Keate, the surgeon-general, and Mr. Rush, the inspector of hospitals, to wait on Mr. Ongley, and to offer their assistance during the progress of his cure."

And on the next day the following article was sent round to the conductors of newspapers :

May, 16.

We have authority to state, that the misfortune which happened yesterday morning, at the field-day of the grenadier battalion of Guards, in Hyde-park, arose entirely from accident. A due regard to the anxiety that every individual of the battalion feels that this matter should be properly understood, is our inducement for giving this statement to the public.

The coincidence of the event with the atrocious attempt at night in the theatre tended to strengthen an opinion, previously entertained by some, that it was not entirely the effect of accident, but arose from a design against his majesty's sacred person. There is not the least reason, however, to suppose that this was the case. The king was within twenty yards of the battalion, and about eight yards, upon a

parallel line, from the gentleman who was wounded. His majesty was on horseback ; and the musquet that fired the ball must not only have been pointed low, but could not have been directed against his person, otherwise it could not have missed him by so many yards, and hit a gentleman not standing behind, but in the same line with him.

Every loyal heart must be filled with grief and indignation on hearing of the danger to which his majesty's sacred life was afterwards exposed, and from which he so providentially escaped. The king and queen, and the princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, Mary, and Amelia, with the usual attendants, honoured the theatre with their presence, to see the comedy of "She wou'd and she wou'd not," and the farce of the "Humourist." Just as his majesty entered his box, and while he was bowing to the audience with his usual condescension, a person who sat in the second row from the orchestra, but towards the middle of the pit, stood up, and, levelling a horse-pistol towards the king's box, fired it. It was so instantaneous as to prevent all the persons near him from seeing his design in time to defeat it, though, providentially, a gentleman who sat next him, Mr. Holroyd, of Scotland-yard, had the good fortune to raise the arm of the assassin, so as to direct the contents of the pistol towards the roof of the box. The audience remained for a few seconds in a mute agony of suspense. The queen was about making her entry ; and the curtain rising, as generally arranged on such occasions. His majesty, with the greatest presence of mind and tenderness, waved his hand as a signal, to dissuade his royal consort from her immediate appearance ; and instantly standing erect, raised his right hand to his breast, and continued for some time in a bowing attitude to the spectators, to remove their perturbation of mind for his safety.

Her majesty now entered, and appeared to be much agitated, clasping her hands with great emotion. On the entry of the princesses, the confusion attendant upon the outrage had not subsided; and, on being informed of the cause, Augusta fainted away, but was soon recovered by the tender attention of her sister Elizabeth, and the ladies-in-waiting. By this time, however, the princess Mary became no less affected at the alarming communication, and the same means to effect her recovery were, with equal success, had recourse to. After the first moment of stupor, the persons around him, and some musicians from the orchestra, seized the man, and hurried him over the palisades into the music-room. Mr. Wright, a solicitor in Welclose-square, who sat immediately behind him, was the first person to secure him. He dropped the pistol, but Mr. Wright found it under the seat.

The affecting scene being at length terminated, by the entire composure of the royal females, "God save the king" was twice sung, amidst the most enthusiastic shouts of true loyalty and affection. The play then commenced. Mr. Bannister first came on, and attempted to proceed; but was interrupted by the audience, who eagerly inquired whether the assassin was in safe custody: at the same time insisting that he should be brought upon the stage. Mr. Bannister answered that the villain certainly was in custody; Mrs. Jordan soon after came forward also, and assured the house of the same fact. The audience now became perfectly satisfied, and the performances were suffered to go on without any further interruption. At the end of the farce, "God save the king" was again demanded, and received with enthusiastic applause.

The royal party then left the theatre, amidst the prayers and plaudits of the crowded circle,

who, while they thus manifested their sincere regard for a most virtuous and gracious sovereign, sufficiently marked their indignation at the conduct of the treasonable assassin.

When the king's carriage, on the way home, came to the corner of Southampton-street, a person, by trade a shoemaker, who, it seems, had placed himself there for that purpose, hooted and hissed his majesty in the most impudent manner, and continued following his carriage for some time, displaying every mark of contempt and disrespect, till at length he was taken into custody.

When the royal family reached the queen's house supper was immediately brought up, but none of the royal family sat down. Her majesty drank a glass of wine and water, and then retired. The princess Amelia, who had been ill near two years, fainted on entering her chamber; and the fits continued so long that her restoration to life appeared doubtful. His majesty, who was, during the whole evening, perfectly cool and collected, on hearing of the situation of Amelia, went to her royal highness's chamber, and attended her until recollection returned, when she threw herself into the king's arms, and said, "she would be comforted." His majesty, on leaving the chamber of Amelia, went to Elizabeth, Mary, and Augusta, whose situation was nearly the same as the princess Amelia's; but a great flow of tears brought them relief, in which state they passed the night. During this scene of confusion, the princess Sophia (who had been for some time indisposed), repeatedly called to her attendant to know the cause of it. She said, that the princess Amelia had returned from the theatre ill. His majesty on passing, said, "Sophia, good night," and retired to rest: it was then one o'clock.

We now proceed to state, as accurately as possible, what followed the apprehension of the

traitor. The duke and duchess of York were in their box at the time; and his royal highness, who was an eye witness of the transaction, immediately left it, and attended the examination of the offender in the room into which he had been conducted, and where he had been searched to see if he had any other fire-arms or papers. He had none. Mr. Tamplin, a trumpeter in the band, who assisted in taking him over the orchestra, recognised the man to be a soldier, and, pulling up his coat, found that he had on a military waistcoat, with the button of the 15th light dragoons. It was an officer's old waistcoat. On being questioned by Mr. Sheridan, he said, "he had no objection to tell who he was—it was not over yet—there was a great deal more and worse to be done. His name was James Hadfield; he had served his time to a working silversmith, but had enlisted into the 15th light dragoons, and had fought for his king and country."

At this time the prince of Wales and duke of York entered the room. He immediately turned to the duke, and said, "I know your royal highness; God bless you! I have served with your royal highness, and (pointing to a deep cut under his eye, and another long scar on his cheek, said) I got these, and more than these, in fighting by your side. At Lincelles, I was left three hours among the dead in a ditch, and was taken prisoner by the French. I had my arm broken by a shot, and eight sabre wounds in my head: but I recovered, and here I am." He then gave the following account of himself, and of his conduct; and he said, that, having been discharged from the army on account of his wounds, he had returned to London, and now lived by working at his own trade. He made a good deal of money; he worked for Mr. Hougham, of Aldersgate-street. Being weary of life, he last week bought a pair

of pistols of one William Wakelin, a hair-dresser and broker in St. John-street. [Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Wigstead immediately sent persons to bring Wakelin to the theatre.] He told him they were for his young master, who would give him a blunderbuss in exchange. That he had borrowed a crown from his master that morning, with which he had bought some powder, and had gone to the house of Mrs. Mason, in Red Lion-street, to have some beer; that he went backwards to the yard, and there he tried his pistols. He found one of them good for nothing, and left it behind him. In his own trade he used lead, and he cast himself two slugs, with which he loaded his pistol, and came to the theatre. At this part of the narrative sir William Addington arrived, and, taking the chair, went over the examination of the persons who had secured him, and who had seen the pistol levelled at his majesty. Sir William said, it was most material to ascertain the fact, whether the pistol was levelled at the sacred person of his majesty, or fired at random; as the one case would be high treason, the other not. He asked Hadfield what had induced him to attempt the life of the best of sovereigns? He answered, that "he had not attempted to kill the king. He had fired his pistol over the royal box. He was as good a shot as any in England; but he was himself weary of life; he wished for death, but not to die by his own hands. He was desirous to raise an alarm; but wished that the spectators might fall upon him. He hoped that his life was forfeited." He was asked if he belonged to the Corresponding Society. He said, "No; he belonged to no political society; but that he belonged to a club called the *Odd Fellows*, and that he was a member of a benefit society." And, being asked if he had any accomplices, he solemnly declared that he

had none; and with great energy took God to witness, and laid his hand on his heart. From this time he began to show manifest signs of mental derangement. When asked who his father was, he said, "he had been postillion to some duke," but could not say what duke. He talked in a mysterious way of dreams; and of a great commission he had received in his sleep. That he knew he was to be a martyr, and was to be persecuted like his great master Jesus Christ. He had been persecuted in France; but he had not yet been sufficiently tried. He said many other incoherent things in the same style. William Wakelin, the person of whom he had bought the pistols, being brought to the house, was examined. He said, it was true that he had bought a pair of pistols of him, and that he had said they were for his young master, who would give him a blunderbuss for them; but he had not yet got the blunderbuss. He knew very little of Hadfield, but knew where he worked, and had heard a good character of him, but that the least drink affected his head. Several persons from the house of Mrs. Mason, his acquaintance, confirmed this fact; and they said, they ascribed this to the very severe wounds he had received in the head. The least drink quite deranged him. On this evidence he was committed to Cold-bath-fields for re-examination; and the duke of Clarence and Cumberland and Mr. Sheridan conducted him thither. His majesty's privy-council, however, desiring to examine him forthwith, to discover if he had any accomplices, he was taken to the duke of Portland's office, where he underwent another examination. Mr. Wright, Mr. Holroyd, Mr. Tamplin, Mr. Calkin, Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Francis Wood, Mr. Lion, and Mr. Dietz, the persons who were instrumental in securing him, and whose evidence was the most material, as to his directing the pistol toward his ma-

jesty's box, if not towards his sacred person, also attended. After this, the duke of Clarence, duke of Cumberland, Mr. Sheridan, and a number of officers, went back to the theatre; and, after their majesties had withdrawn, the most strict search was made for the slugs. A mark was discovered in the top of the canopy over the royal box; and, in the orchestra below, a flattened and irregular piece of lead was found, supposed to have recoiled from the place where it struck. It was providential, that, at this theatre, the royal box was elevated more than 15 feet above the pit; so that from the place where Hadfield levelled his pistol, he was between 30 and 40 feet distant from his majesty's person. The prince of Wales, who was at dinner at lord Melborne's, was almost immediately informed of the circumstance, by Mr. Jefferys, M.P. for Coventry; who, thinking a variety of erroneous reports might reach his royal highness, instantly left the theatre, where he had been an eye-witness of the circumstance, to inform the prince of it, and of the king's safety. His royal highness immediately went to the theatre to attend his majesty.

The prince of Wales, dukes of York, Clarence, Cumberland, Gloucester, and prince William, breakfasted the following morning with their majesties and the princesses at Buckingham-house. The princesses were much better in the morning, but had suffered much from depression of spirits. The king came to St. James's palace at one o'clock, guarded by a party of the life-guards, where his majesty held a levee, which was most numerously attended. Present—His highness the prince of Orange, the archbishops of Canterbury and York, bishops of London, Norwich, Carlisle, Rochester, Gloucester, and Kildare; the Imperial, Sardinian, Bavarian, and Wirtemberg, envoys; the lord mayor, alderman Watson,

the attorney and solicitor-general, the master of the rolls, Mr. Common Serjeant, the recorder of London, dukes of Portland, Montrose, Beaufort, and Roxburgh; marquesses Downshire, Bath, Townsend, and Titchfield; and nearly the whole of the members of both houses of parliament, and other noblemen, who came on purpose to congratulate his majesty on his miraculous escape.

A loyal and affectionate address of the lords and commons united in parliament was agreed to *nomine dissente*; and in the city of London, a common council having been summoned to meet for general business, a very loyal address of congratulation was, in like manner, unanimously voted.

The trial of James Hadfield for high treason came on the 26th June, in the Court of King's Bench. At nine, the four judges took their seats, and the prisoner was brought into court. The officer of the court called over the pannel of names; from which, after nineteen challenges on the part of the prisoner, and two on the part of the crown, had been made, the jury were sworn. Mr. Abbot then opened the proceedings on the part of the crown; after which the attorney-general addressed the jury.

Joseph Calkin.—I belong to the musical band of Drury-lane theatre, and was in the orchestra, opposite to where the king sat, on the 15th of May. I saw the prisoner in the pit; and, at the moment that his majesty came into the box, I turned my eyes towards the audience, saw the prisoner above all the rest, with a pistol in his hand, which at that instant went off, pointed at his majesty, as it appeared to me; the pistol was then dropped to the ground. I helped to secure the prisoner by handing him over the rails, and conducted him to the music-room, where the duke of York and Mr. Sheridan came soon after. On the

duke's entering the room, the prisoner said, "Your royal highness is a good fellow; but this is not the worst that is brewing."

After several others had deposed to the same effect, the duke of York was called. When his royal highness appeared on the judges' bench, the prisoner, who had previously shown not the least emotion, but surveyed with a sort of vacant stare the objects around him, started up, and said, "Ah! God bless his highness, he is a good soul."

Duke of York.—I was at Drury-lane the 15th of May. I cannot swear I saw the prisoner in the house, but saw him after he fired the pistol in the music-room. The moment I entered, he said, "God bless you! I know you." I instantly recognised the man's face, but where I had seen him I knew not. I said to the prisoner, "You have been one of my *orderly* dragoons, have you not?" The prisoner replied, he had been with me since the day after the battle of Famar. His answers on other topics were such as to assure me he was *perfectly* acquainted with what I asked him. He said, his life was forfeited; that he was tired of life; and that he regretted nothing but that his wife would only be a wife to him a few days longer. He said, once or twice, "The worst has not happened yet." During this time he did not portray the least appearance of *derangement*; he was as collected as a person possibly could be. After his majesty was gone, I remained to see the house searched. A perforation was traced fourteen inches higher than where his majesty sat; and, on looking about, a slug was found in the orchestra; there was a smell of powder about it.

Joseph Richardson, esq. said, that he was present at the examination of the prisoner, in the music-room. When the duke of York entered, the prisoner said, with enthusiasm, "God

bless him! he is the soldier's friend, and I love him." He denied any intention to take away the life of the sovereign. There did not appear in the conduct of the man any one indication of lunacy. When preparations were made to examine him, he said, that there was no need of so much trouble;—if they would use him well, he should tell the whole truth: "I was tired of life," said he, "and my plan was to get rid of it by other means. I did not mean any thing against the life of the king; I knew the attempt alone would answer my purpose."

W. Harman and George Webbe were the next witnesses called. The former deposed to the effect of his having seen a pair of pistols in Hadfield's possession on the 15th of May; and the latter, that on the same day he purchased an ounce of gunpowder at his master's shop.

Here the attorney-general closed the evidence for the prosecution.

Mr. Erskine then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner; and called witnesses.

Major Ryan, Hercules M'Gill, and Charles Price, officers of the 15th regiment, on the part of the defence, proved the previous good conduct of the prisoner, and his derangement in consequence of the wounds he received in his head. The latter, who met with two wounds in attempting to rescue the prisoner in the action near Lisle, stated, that he very narrowly escaped from being stabbed by him in a paroxysm of his madness, in 1796, at Croydon.

Mr. Cline, the surgeon, and Dr. Creighton, said, they examined the wounds of the prisoner on Wednesday; had no doubt but that the sabre cuts in his head had injured the brain, nor any difficulty in assigning this as the probable cause of his present madness.

Mary Gower, sister-in-law to the prisoner, gave a long account of his malady. She stated, that on the 13th of May, two days before this

offence, he started from bed with a view to kill his child, because, he said, "God had ordered him to do it." On that and the two following days he was more violent than usual. On other occasions he was extremely fond of the infant. In this last fit he repeatedly said that Jesus Christ was a bastard, and the Virgin Mary a ——. He said, he had been to see God; and he sent her and his wife to see God, who was Mr. Truelock, the cobbler, now confined in a mad-house. On the morning of Thursday, May 15th, he started from bed, saying he had lost a great deal of blood; that he had a great deal to do, and a great way to go. When he came home, at three on that day, to clean himself, he told her and his wife that he was going to be made a member of a club of *Odd Fellows*. He said, that he had seen God in the night; that he dined with the king; and that he wished to have his permission to have another cut at the French. He always spoke with loyalty and affection of his majesty, to whom, he said, he was indebted for his pension.

In this stage, lord Kenyon interrupted the proceedings, and asked the attorney-general and the counsel, if, after what they had heard, they thought fit to carry the inquiry further? The attorney-general replied, "Certainly not, if his lordship thought the evidence conclusive."

Lord Kenyon.—"I think, Mr. Attorney-general, there can be no doubt of his insanity; and, if the man was out of his senses at the time, by the laws of England he cannot be found guilty; and, when one looks at the evidence, it brings some conviction to one's mind that he is most dreadfully deranged. Yet such a man is a most dangerous enemy to society; and it is impossible, with safety, to suffer such a man to be let loose upon the public, and to

permit him to range at large; it must not be. I, however, only ask if it is necessary to proceed further on the trial, unless, indeed, you think that this case has been drawn up to give a false colouring to the defence."

Mr. Attorney-general.—"I have no reason to suppose it a covering; the circumstances now disclosed were unknown to me before."

Lord Kenyon.—"The result then, being such as it is, in the present state of the case he cannot be discharged; it alike concerns the king upon the throne, and the beggar at his gate; for the sake therefore, of common justice, he must not be discharged, but so disposed of as that all relief may be administered to his unfortunate case.—My brothers agree with me in thinking that he was not so far under the guidance of reason to be capable of knowing what he did: therefore the court are of opinion, that he should be carried to his late place of confinement till he can be further disposed of."

The jury delivered their verdict, Not Guilty, being under the influence of insanity at the time the act was done: and on that ground the court ordered him to be remanded. He was therefore conducted to a coach, and conveyed back to prison.

Hadfield was subsequently sent to Bedlam for the remainder of his natural life.

Sir Nathaniel Wraxall, in his Memoirs, speaking of the conduct of his majesty on this occasion, says:—"Few of his subjects would have shewn the presence of mind, and attention to every thing except himself, which pervaded his whole conduct, on the evening of the 15th of May, 1800, at the time that Hadfield discharged a pistol over his head in the theatre, loaded with two slugs. His whole anxiety was directed towards the queen, who, not having entered the box, might, he apprehended, on hearing of the event, be overcome by her surprise

or emotions. The dramatic piece which was about to be represented, commenced in a short space of time, precisely as if no accident had interrupted its performance; and so little were his nerves shaken, or his internal tranquillity disturbed by it, that he took his accustomed doze of three or four minutes between the conclusion of the play and the commencement of the farce, as he would have done on any other night."

And it is also worthy of record, that when his majesty took leave of his family for the night, he calmly said, "I am going to bed with a confidence that I shall sleep soundly, and my prayer is, that the poor unhappy prisoner, who aimed at my life, may rest as quietly as I shall."

His majesty's attention to business, whether of a private or public nature, may be said to have been almost proverbial, nor was his punctuality less remarkable. He never forgot an appointment, and it was one of his customary sayings, "that he had better be an hour too soon than a minute too late." A striking instance of his attention to business took place on the 29th of July, when, at an early hour, he rode from Windsor to King's-beech-hill, to review a select body of troops, after which he set off for town, and arrived at St. James's at half-past one. He immediately held a council, at which the speech was read for the prorogation of parliament. He then signed near forty different bills, and afterwards went in state to the house of lords, and put an end to the session. In his speech, touching upon the union with Ireland, his majesty said—

"This great measure, on which my wishes have been long earnestly bent, I shall ever consider as the happiest event of my reign, being persuaded that nothing could so effectually contribute to extend to my Irish subjects the

full participation of the blessings derived from the British constitution, and to establish on the most solid foundation the strength, prosperity, and power, of the whole empire."

In this speech, his majesty expressed his great concern at the severe pressure which the people suffered from the continued scarcity, and he strongly recommended that the higher classes should banish from their tables every superfluity in which flour was used. But he did not only recommend the adoption of this system to others, but he commanded that it should be rigidly adhered to in every branch of his establishment. It is, perhaps, not generally known that a cherry pie was a standing dish at his majesty's table, and the fruit was regularly sent from the gardens at Kew and Hampton Court. It however happened that after he had issued his orders that no pastry whatever should appear at the tables of the establishment, that a cherry pie was still seen on the sideboard. His majesty ordered it to be instantly taken away, and given to a poor family then residing at Eton-wick, besides ordering a heavy fine to be levied upon the head cook, for disobedience of orders, which fine was also distributed amongst the poor.

So alive, indeed, was his majesty to the necessities of the poor, that he issued the following proclamation:—

GEORGE R.

Whereas an address has been presented to us by our two houses of parliament, requesting us to issue our royal proclamation, recommending to all such persons as have the means of procuring other articles of food, the greatest economy and frugality in the use of every species of grain: we having taken the said address into consideration, and being persuaded that the prevention of all unnecessary consumption of corn will furnish one of the surest and most effectual means of alleviating the present pressure, and of providing for the necessary demands of the year, have, therefore, in pursuance of the

said address, and out of our tender concern for the welfare of our people, thought fit (with the advice of our privy-council,) to issue this our royal proclamation, most earnestly exhorting and charging all those of our loving subjects who have the means of procuring other articles of food than corn, as they tender their own immediate interests, and feel for the wants of others, to practise the greatest economy and frugality in the use of every species of grain; and we do, for this purpose, more particularly exhort and charge all masters of families to reduce the consumption of bread in their respective families, by at least one-third of the quantity consumed in ordinary times, and in no case to suffer the same to exceed one quartern loaf for each person in each week; to abstain from the use of flour in pastry, and, moreover, carefully to restrict the use thereof in all other articles than bread; and we do also, in like manner, exhort and charge all persons who keep horses, especially horses for pleasure, as far as their respective circumstances will admit, carefully to restrict the consumption of oats and other grain for the subsistence of the same. And we do hereby further charge and command every minister, in his respective parish church or chapel, within the kingdom of Great Britain, to read, or cause to be read, our said proclamation, on the Lord's day, for two successive weeks after receiving the said proclamation.

Given at our court at St. James's, the third day of December, one thousand eight hundred, in the forty-first year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

It was about this period that the Egyptian expedition was planned; and the following anecdote respecting it will be perused with great interest, as it is particularly illustrative of the character of our late lamented sovereign. It is certain, that the Egyptian expedition was planned almost exclusively by the late lord Melville, and did not receive a cordial assent even from Mr. Pitt himself. It was resolved upon in the council by the narrowest majority; and the sovereign gave his written assent in words like the following: "I consent with the utmost reluctance to a measure, which

seems to me to peril the flower of my army upon a distant and hazardous expedition." Under such discouraging auspices that expedition was undertaken, which was the first in the lengthened war that served distinctly to show, that, whether the land or sea is beneath him, the Briton is more than a match for his enemies.

On occasion of the king's breakfasting with lord Melville, at Wimbledon, during his retirement from office in lord Sidmouth's administration, he took a public and generous mode of acknowledging that minister's merit. He filled a glass of wine, and having desired the queen and company to follow his example, he drank "to the health of the minister, who, in opposition to the opinion of his colleagues, and the avowed reluctance of his sovereign, dared to plan and forward the Egyptian expedition." It is curious that this memorable expedition, which was crowned with the victory of Alexandria, did not affect the treaty of Amiens to the extent that might have been expected. The French ministers produced to lord Cornwallis, after the signature, their despatch concerning the evacuation of Egypt. To this circumstance at the time the line was applied—

"A needless *Alexandrine* ends the song."

His majesty was always a staunch partisan for legitimate rights, and his conduct, therefore, towards the remaining branches of the Stuart family, may appear, at first sight, rather contradictory, were it not accounted for by that goodness and benevolence, which were the usual characteristics of his conduct. At this period the cardinal York, who sometimes pompously assumed the empty title of Henry IX., and who was then the only remaining branch of the royal Stuart line, had been completely divested of all his property by the ravages of the French in Italy. His majesty instantly set-

tled an annuity of 4,000*l.* out of the privy-purse, upon the venerable cardinal, for which he was most gratefully thanked through the medium of sir John Coxe Hipplesey, who had taken an active part in recommending the misfortunes of his eminence to the protection of the British monarch.

The projected excursion to Weymouth took place on the 30th of July. His majesty was delighted with the improvements which had taken place at Weymouth since his visit on the preceding year, and had no sooner breakfasted than he set off on foot to investigate them with his customary eagerness and accuracy. In the evening, also, he walked out to enjoy the illuminations and fire-works exhibited in honour of the royal arrival, accompanied by a private gentleman, with whom he conversed in the most familiar manner, and indeed shewed himself in all things quite at home.

During this residence at Weymouth his majesty was generally accompanied in his pedestrian excursions, which were very frequent, by the duke of Cumberland.

A remarkable circumstance took place on the Esplanade, whilst the royal party walked there, on the 2d of August, when they were met by three quakers, recently arrived, who accosted the king, saying that a young friend of theirs, who had lately come from Philadelphia, had a strong desire to see the king and his family. His majesty cheerfully desired that the young American should come forward, who was introduced, and held some conversation with the king, still keeping his hat on, but suddenly pulling it off, he retired to a short distance, and offered up a long prayer to God for his majesty and his house, and thanksgiving for his escape from the late attempt against his life; concluding his devotions with great fervency in a supplication that the Almighty would bless him,

and continue him long to be the father of the little island, and the happiness of his people. The whole scene was most impressive, and was most strongly felt by the queen and princesses.

His majesty during this visit kept very early hours, often bathing at six in the morning, which had the happiest effect upon his health and spirits, and always afforded him full leisure for his equestrian and aquatic excursions. He also derived much satisfaction from the company of his grand-daughter, who arrived on the 11th of August, whilst he was walking on the Esplanade, when he ordered her carriage to stop, that he might welcome her, and seemed proud to shew her to the surrounding multitude; and the next day being the birth-day of her august parent, the whole party spent it on board the Cambrian frigate, then in attendance, when captain and lady C. Durham entertained them in a familiar style, without etiquette; her ladyship after dinner singing a number of the most favourite airs, and accompanying herself on the piano-forte, with which his majesty was highly delighted. Returning on shore in the evening a hasty gala was got up at the lodge, in honour of the day, to which all the resident nobility and gentry were invited.

The duke of York's birth-day, four days afterwards, was also celebrated by the military and the public in a manner which gave his majesty great pleasure.

Some German hussars being encamped in the vicinity, the whole of the royal party set off on the 2d of September, accompanied by the prince of Wales and duke of Cumberland, in order to inspect them; and remained in the camp some time, highly amused with their singing, which was executed in the best German style; after which, on their return, they were agreeably surprised by the arrival of the duke of Gloucester, and his amiable sister, the prin-

cess Sophia, who took up their abode with their majesties. Indeed, at this moment the royal family formed a complete domestic circle; affording a high example to the country at large; and in themselves feeling their happiness much increased by the sprightly sallies of the infant princess, who was now become so much attached to her royal grandfather, that she was never so happy as when walking with him, and her little favourite, lady Catharine Poulett.

On the 6th of September the royal party set off for the island of Portland, to take their annual dinner at the Portland-arms. They were accompanied by a select party; and as soon as they arrived at the island, were saluted by the castle. The royal party then proceeded to the church, and afterwards to the light-house, where they stopped some time to contemplate a large fleet of shipping then passing by. From thence they went to examine a piece of land purchased by Mr. Penn, in which the king took some interest; and also the quarries, where several poor children presented the queen with some very curious shells; who, in return, displayed her generosity by more valuable gifts.

The whole day was spent in festive and familiar harmony, considerably heightened by its being the thirty-eighth anniversary of their majesties' nuptials; on which they and the whole royal party were complimented upon their appearance in the evening at the theatre, by all the nobility and gentry, who thronged round them, anxious to offer their congratulations.

The remainder of their visit was fully occupied in reviews, country excursions, naval trips, &c., and on the 8th of October the whole party returned to Windsor.

It was in the year 1800, that his majesty took under his patronage a society under the title of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the professed object of which was to direct the public

attention to the arts, by an establishment for diffusing the knowledge, and facilitating the general introduction of useful mechanical inventions and improvements.

Although the act of union of Ireland had passed the parliament in 1800, the necessary forms respecting the liturgy, the coin, the national colours, &c., were not gone through until the 3d of January, 1801, when the members of his majesty's council took the oaths as privy councillors for the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and his majesty received the great seal from the lord-chancellor, and, causing it to be defaced, presented to him a new great seal for the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. His majesty was also pleased to appoint, by proclamation, that "The royal style and titles shall henceforth be accepted, taken, and used, in manner and form following: that is to say, the same shall be expressed in the Latin tongue by these words: "*Georgius Tertius, Dei Gratia, Britanniarum Rex, Fidei Defensor*;" and in the English tongue by these words: "George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith."

The year 1801 was also introduced by a circumstance to which perhaps may be ultimately referred other events, not only interesting to this nation, but to the whole of Europe. An administration which had lasted upwards of seventeen years, which had established itself in defiance of the house of commons, had baffled, and at length subdued, a most formidable opposition, was suddenly dissolved, and on Friday the 11th of January, Mr. Pitt gave in his resignation to his majesty, which was immediately followed by that of lord Grenville, earl Spencer, the lord-chancellor, Mr. Dundas and Mr. Wyndham. Of the secret history of this transaction,

little transpired at the the time which could be deemed authentic. It is certain that a serious disagreement had long subsisted between his majesty and the two most active members of the ministry, and the ground of this misunderstanding was understood to be the military arrangements, and at one time it proceeded to such an extent as to determine Mr. Pitt to embrace the first opportunity of proving his strength in the cabinet, and of either holding the reins with the same uncontrolled authority at which his father aspired, or of resigning a situation no longer compatible with his feelings.

The most ostensible ground of the resignation was, however, the unfortunate question of the Catholic emancipation, as it has been called, a question which we cannot but wish had never been agitated; but in this instance our late sovereign shewed himself the father of his people. The sublime maxim of Louis XII. of France, "that if faith were banished from among good men, it should be found in the bosom of princes," seems to have been inherent in the the intellectual formation of George III. His coronation oath was ever present to his mind, and he dreaded the slightest infraction of that solemn compact made with his people, to which the Deity had been invoked as a party, far more than the loss of his crown or life. Notwithstanding the surprising ascendancy which Mr. Pitt maintained over his majesty in the principal leading political questions of the day, the subject of Catholic emancipation was always one of that delicate nature, that nothing but the unparalleled boldness of the minister could ever have prompted him to introduce it to his majesty; but in his great ardour for accomplishing the projected union with Ireland, Mr. Pitt had engaged to the Irish Catholics, to achieve for them their object, in case the act of

union should meet with no opposition on their part, and he took one of the earliest opportunities of bringing it forward in the cabinet-council.

Having compelled his majesty no less than four times in the course of a few years to give way on points where the majority of the cabinet differed from him, they erroneously assumed that he would act in the same manner where his conscience was concerned. Sustained, however, by his principles, he did not hesitate a moment in accepting their resignation, though he accompanied the acceptance with the most flattering testimonies, under his hand, of esteem and personal attachment.

When his majesty refused his support to the emancipation of the Catholics, it was hinted to him, that his refusal, indicated a want of courage. When he nobly replied, "My lords, I am one of those who respect an oath. I have firmness sufficient to quit my throne, and retire to a cottage, or place my neck on a block, if my people require it; but I have not resolution to break that oath which I took in the most solemn manner at my coronation."

It was some time before the new ministerial arrangements were announced, but the means were not known by which the new ministers were recommended to his majesty's notice. It was reported that Mr. Addington entered the royal closet as mediator and came out prime minister. It is, however, more probable, that the king, on this occasion, consulted his old and confidential friend, the earl of Liverpool, and that the integrity, candour, industry, and conciliating manners of that nobleman, distinguished him as a proper person for conducting the public affairs at a crisis when those qualities appeared to be most essential to the welfare of the state. Mr. Addington's appointment, as first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer,

was followed by the nomination of lord Eldon to the office of lord high chancellor, lord St. Vincent to that of first lord of the admiralty, lord Hawkesbury as secretary of state for the foreign, lord Pelham for the home department, and colonel York as secretary at war. Lord Eldon was succeeded by sir Richard Pepper Arden, who was created lord Alvanley, as chief justice of the common pleas, and Mr. Addington by sir John Mitford as speaker of the house of commons: sir William Grant was made master of the rolls, and Mr. Law and Mr. Perceval attorney and solicitor-generals. Before, however, the new ministers could regularly enter upon their respective offices, and before their appointment was announced in the gazette, his majesty was seized (in the month of February) with an alarming illness, and continued so far indisposed as to be unable to transact public business to the middle of the month of March. Till that period the old ministers continued to hold the reins of government, with the exception only of lord St. Vincent and lord Hawkesbury, who had been inducted into office previous to his majesty's indisposition.

Although the generality of addresses presented to his majesty, have not been deemed worthy of insertion in these Memoirs, yet the following, which was presented by the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the city of London, on the occasion of the union with Ireland, deserves particular notice, as it is not only a high, but just eulogium on the eminent virtues which distinguished their sovereign.

Most gracious sire,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common-council assembled, approach the throne with the liveliest sentiments of congratulation on the very important event of the legislative union of your

majesty's kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. Unshaken as we are in our firm allegiance to the best of kings, we contemplate with peculiar satisfaction every circumstance which, in its design or operation, can tend to the security and honour of your majesty's crown, and thereby to the declared first object of your majesty's heart, the welfare and prosperity of your people. The accomplishment of this great measure, founded in wisdom, and demonstrative of that paternal regard which your majesty has ever evinced for every class of your subjects, the union of the two kingdoms, particularly affords, at this momentous crisis of public affairs, the gratifying prospect of consolidating the joint interests, energy, and resources of the empire, and of confirming, by a mutual participation of the peculiar blessings of each, the prosperity and happiness of both kingdoms. Long may your majesty wear the diadem, which, through unexampled difficulties, has maintained its dignity and preserved its lustre! and long may the subjects of your united empire, with one heart and one voice, confess with gratitude the loyalty and veneration due to a sovereign, whose honour must be their pride, and on whose security is ingrafted their immediate welfare! and may the most complete success, under Providence, crown their determinations to subdue your majesty's enemies wherever they may be found.

To which his majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer:

I thank you for this dutiful and loyal address, and for your warm congratulation on the union of the two kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland; an event which, I trust, cannot fail, under the blessings of Providence, to augment and perpetuate the welfare and happiness of all my people. Your affectionate expressions of attachment to my person and government, and your steady determination to maintain, against every aggression, the security and honour of my crown, are highly acceptable to me, and secure to my faithful citizens of London my constant favour and protection.

But a more faithful picture of his majesty's character was never drawn by a poet's pen, than that to which we are indebted to the masterly pen of Cowper, and he was neither a courtier nor a flatterer. In his *Table Talk*, he says—

O! bright occasions of dispensing good,
How seldom used, how little understood!
To pour in virtue's lap her just reward;
Keep vice restrained behind a double guard,
To quell the faction that affronts the throne
By silent magnanimity alone;
To nurse with tender care the thriving arts,
Watch every beam philosophy imparts;
To give religion her unbridled scope,
Nor judge by statute a believer's hope;
With close fidelity and love unfeigned,
To keep the matrimonial bond unstained:
Covetous only of a virtuous praise,
His life a lesson to the land he sways:
To touch the sword with conscientious awe,
Nor draw it but when duty bids him draw;
To sheath it in the peace-restoring close
With joyous bound what victory bestows;
Blest country, where these kingly glories shine.
Blest England, if this happiness be thine!

The severe malady of his majesty in 1789, and the melancholy cause of it, were still fresh in the remembrance of the public; and a considerable degree of interest was excited by an alarming malady which attacked his majesty early in 1801, and which originated in a cold caught whilst attending divine service at the chapel-royal on the fast-day. Some symptoms of the former malady exhibited themselves, and occasioned no inconsiderable degree of alarm in the breasts of the royal family.

His majesty's illness continued with very slight intermission, throughout the whole of February; the regular bulletins were published every day, and the curiosity of the people was unbounded to ascertain the state of his majesty's health. It was not until the 11th of March, that the following bulletin allayed the fears which had been strongly impressed upon the public mind:

His majesty is free from fever, and seems only to require the time always necessary after so severe an illness for the recovery of his usual health and spirits.

His majesty now dined with his family as

usual, and on the 12th, he was sufficiently recovered to peruse the despatches, which had been for some time accumulating.

It will not be thought uninteresting to be informed of the remedy to which was to be attributed the abatement of the king's fever. Several opiates having been tried without the desired effect, hops were placed under his majesty's head, which, acting as a soporific, produced complete success.

During the period of his majesty's illness, another maniac visited the Queen's-palace. He attempted to enter the palace by force on the 22d of January, and on the porter inquiring the nature of his business, he replied, "That he had written a note to the princesses, promising to accompany them to the play that evening, and he now came to know why he had not received any answer; and he desired that one of the princesses might be sent for, whom he had reason to believe was strongly attached to him, in order that he might hear from her own lips, in what dress she would wish him to attend her.

He was taken into custody, and, on examination, was discovered to be Mr. Palmer Hurst, a gentleman who formerly possessed considerable property at Walton-upon-Thames.

His majesty having purchased the former residence of the duke of Gloucester at Weymouth, the necessary preparations were made for another journey to that fashionable watering-place, as it was the intention of his majesty to make considerable improvements in his newly acquired mansion during the summer.

On Sunday the 28th of June, the whole of the royal family were assembled at Kew to divine worship; after which the prince of Wales, the duke and duchess of York, and the rest of the royal brothers took leave of their majesties previous to their departure for Weymouth.

Some fears were, however, excited at this time for the safety of his majesty's person on an unprotected part of the coast, in consequence of the formidable preparations which were then making by the first-consul of France, for the invasion of this country. His majesty, however, was not easily intimidated, and it would have been no mean triumph for the vaunting consul to proclaim it to the infatuated people whom he so tyrannically governed, that the king of England was afraid to visit the coast on account of the terror which his preparation for invasion had excited. His majesty, however, relied upon the energies of the country, and the loyalty of his people, and when he stood upon the Esplanade at Weymouth, and saw the British flag flying on board that bulwark of his kingdom, an English man-of-war, the pride of the Briton rose in him, he felt secure in his strength, and in the justness of his cause, and he laughed at the threats of his boasting enemy. In the summer of 1801 the negotiations for peace were set on foot, and the preliminaries were signed in September.

There were some curious rumours afloat respecting his majesty at the time that the peace was in agitation, and that he considered any negotiation with France at that period both as impolitic and unwise. Indeed, one of the historians of that period mentions, that lord Hawkesbury affixed the royal signature to the articles, not only without the king's consent or approbation, but without his knowledge. We cannot, however, suppose, that any minister would be bold enough to usurp the royal authority in such an extraordinary manner, but, on the contrary, that his majesty knowing that the tide of public opinion run in favour of peace, tacitly acquiesced in it, although, as far as his individual opinion went, he might think the experiment a dangerous one.

There is, however, an anecdote preserved respecting these preliminaries of peace, which is particularly deserving of notice. The preliminaries were signed in town by the secretary of state, without an express order of the king, on the 10th of October, whilst his majesty was on the point of setting off from Weymouth on his return to Windsor, and he had reached Andover on his way, when he was met by a cabinet messenger announcing the fact to him.

The despatches were delivered to him as he was standing in conversation, at the window of the inn, with the earl of Cardigan, and two other noblemen, whom he desired to remain whilst he read the note, observing them, consistently with etiquette, preparing to leave the room. Having opened the letter, he betrayed so much surprise, both by look and gesture, that the noblemen again prepared to quit the apartment, when he advanced towards them, saying, "I have received surprising news, but it is no secret; preliminaries of peace are signed with France—I know nothing of it whatever, but since it is made, I sincerely wish it may prove lasting."

If this anecdote be authentic, it is decisive of the point, that the peace was entirely the work of the ministry, without even consulting the wishes of his majesty on the subject; but he saw the tide of popularity flowing strong upon them, inspiring them with a confidence, which on their first entrance upon public business they did not possess. Indeed, his majesty, on the whole, saw that he had no reason to complain. The spirit of the ministry was moderate and conciliating; that peace which they had established abroad, they wished to see productive of the same benignant effects at home. The measures of coercion, which the violence of faction had, perhaps, in some mea-

sure, rendered necessary, were no longer called for. They were suffered to die a natural death, and with them died that malignancy of party which had given them birth. The mildness of his majesty's government convinced the disaffected more than volumes of argument would have done, of the inestimable advantages of the British constitution, and of the fallacy and delusion of their revolutionary schemes. The ferment of party which had previously existed seemed to subside, as by a kind of magic. The confession of error on both sides was frank and sincere. The press became once more the natural agent and ally of a free government; schemes of reform were looked upon with diffidence or disgust, since they might endanger the happiness which the country enjoyed in the then existing establishment. Commerce once again unchained, felt a new spring, and would have revived in all its branches, had not the delays attending the execution of the definitive treaty cast a partial cloud over the British horizon. Such was the aspect of the political world at the close of 1801; and the predictions of his majesty, that the peace would be of short duration, were also too soon verified.

His majesty's civil list was found at this time to be considerably in arrears, and on the 15th of February, 1802, he sent down the following message to parliament:

His majesty feels great concern in acquainting the house of commons, that the provision made by parliament for defraying the expenses of his household and civil government has been found inadequate to their support.

A considerable debt has, in consequence, been unavoidably incurred, an account of which he has ordered to be laid before the house.

His majesty relies with confidence on the zeal and affection of his faithful commons, that they will take the same into their early consideration, and adopt such measures as the circumstances may appear to them to require.

G. R.

The discussion of the civil list led to the advancement of a claim on the part of the prince of Wales to the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall during his minority, which was ultimately decided against the prince by a majority of 57. A short time afterwards his majesty sent another message to the house of commons, to the following purport :

G. R.—His majesty, anxious to make a provision for their royal highnesses the dukes of Sussex and Cambridge, and finding the civil list unequal to bear the additional burthen of such a provision, requires the assistance of his faithful commons, and trusts, that on this occasion, as on all former ones, they will shew their attachment to his family.

The annual sum of 12,000*l.* was subsequently voted to each of the royal dukes, to be paid from the consolidated fund of England and Ireland.

It may with confidence be asserted, that few sovereigns were more generally acquainted with the particular events that transpired in their kingdom, than George III. Indeed, he often surprised the noblemen with whom he was in the habit of conversing in a familiar manner, with the knowledge which he possessed of certain transactions, and of which they supposed him to be wholly ignorant. He appeared anxious to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the leading events of the day, and to take an interest in subjects, which he afterwards turned to the advantage of particular individuals, in a manner, not less noble and benevolent, than it was extraordinary.

We are able to record two remarkable instances of this nature, one of which places his majesty's character in the most amiable light.

In the year 1802, a dignified divine, preaching before the royal family, happened to quote a passage illustrative of his subject from a living writer, whose name he did not mention. The

king, who was always remarkably attentive, was struck with the quotation, and immediately noted the passage for an inquiry. At the conclusion of the service, he asked the preacher from whom his extract had been taken: and being informed that the author was a dissenting minister in Yorkshire, he expressed a wish to have a copy of the original discourse. The royal inclination was accordingly imparted to the author, who lost no time in complying with it, accompanying the work with a very modest letter, expressive of the high sense which the writer entertained of the honour conferred upon him. His majesty was so well pleased with the production, as to signify his readiness to serve the author. The case of a young man condemned to death for forgery shortly after afforded this amiable and disinterested minister an opportunity of supplicating, at the hands of the monarch, the exercise of his royal prerogative; and that the sovereign, after having voluntarily given the general assurance of his favour to an obscure but meritorious individual, should be induced rather to depart from an established rule, than violate the sacredness of his pledge, displays a dignity of mind, and a benevolence of heart, which cannot fail to elevate his character above all panegyric.

At the York assizes, in the following year, the clerk to a mercantile house, in Leeds, was tried on a charge of forgery, found guilty, and condemned to death. His family, at Halifax, was very respectable, and his father, in particular, bore an excellent character. Immediately after the sentence was passed upon the unfortunate young man, the dissenting minister of the baptist persuasion, above alluded to, who had long been intimate with the father, presumed to address his majesty in a most moving petition, soliciting the pardon of the son of his friend. Fully aware that it had been almost

an invariable rule with the government, to grant no pardon in cases of forgery, he had little hope of success; but, contrary to his expectation, his petition prevailed, and the reprieve was granted. That the solicitation of a private individual should have succeeded, when similar applications urged by numbers, and supported by great interest, have uniformly failed, may excite surprise, and deserves particular observation.

His majesty, although a year had nearly elapsed, remembered the dissenting minister by whose discourse he had been edified, and faithful to his promise, granted him the first favour which he asked.

The second circumstance was in the case of Dr. Vincent, who resigned the head mastership of Westminster-school, in being appointed to a prebendary stall in the Abbey. The learned doctor, at the period in question, had published a pamphlet in opposition to, and refutation of, a sermon, preached by Dr. Lewis O'Beirne, bishop of Meath, at the anniversary of the charity children, at St. Paul's, in which he roundly asserted, that religion made none, or very little part in the education of youth in the public seminaries of the kingdom. This was considered a most superior performance, and the proofs and arguments were so incontrovertible, that no reply whatever was given to it. The pamphlet of the learned doctor made a very strong impression on the mind of his majesty, for a short time afterwards, he was agreeably surprised by a letter from lord Sidmouth, announcing that his majesty had been graciously pleased to nominate him to the deanry of Westminster, as a public reward for public services. This promotion must, therefore, have arisen from the spontaneous determination of his majesty, as it was unsolicited for by any of the doctor's friends, and little expected by

the doctor himself, although, it is reported, that he afterwards confessed, that it was particularly pleasing to him, as it did not remove him from any of his former connexions, and allowed him to pass the evening of his days in that society to which he had been accustomed; and that if his majesty had given him the choice of ecclesiastical preferment, he would have solicited the deanry, even although the niche of Rochester was not, as formerly, attached to it.

The learned doctor, shortly after, went to reside in the vicinity of Windsor-forest, which being reported to his majesty, he determined to pay the dean a visit, and, in the course of conversation, his majesty regretted the separation of the deanry from the bishopric, adding, "if you are satisfied, Mr. Dean, I am not; the see of Rochester shall be again united with your deanry the first opportunity." His majesty's good intentions towards the dean were, however, frustrated, for the see of Rochester was shortly afterwards given to another—a proof that the minister of this kingdom has, sometimes, more power than the king himself.

It may not be considered uninteresting to record the private life of his majesty at this time. He rose early, and never omitted divine service at eight o'clock, which was generally performed in the king's chapel in the upper court. Except on those days when state affairs required his presence, it was his custom to ride out until dinner, extending his rides sometimes to the neighbouring towns, in which he was generally accompanied by some of the princesses and those favoured individuals who enjoyed the honour of being particularly about his person, and with whom he always entered into conversation with the greatest affability and condescension. At other times, he would walk to his different farms, habited like a country gentleman; and he took great pleasure in con-

versing with the persons whom he met, although many of them were ignorant in whose presence they were standing. On one of these occasions he observed a clownish boy hanging over a gate, and in his usual abrupt manner the king asked him, "Well boy, who are you?" "I be a pig boy," replied the ill-mannered urchin. "Who do you work for?" "I has no work at present; they won't employ me." "Why not?" asked the monarch. "Because all the land about here belongs to *Georgy*, and they don't want I." "Georgy! Georgy! who is Georgy?" demanded his majesty. "Whoy, he be king, and lives up at castle there, but he does no good for I." The humane and considerate monarch, amused with the boy's simplicity, and feeling for his situation, instantly gave him a memorandum for his farming bailiff, which procured him employment, and taught him better to appreciate the merits of "*Georgy*."

On another occasion he walked down to the stables, and whilst mounting his horse, entered into conversation with Mr. Smith, the well known auctioneer of Windsor, who had been employed by his majesty to sell the Merino sheep, an act which, by some narrow minded people, was deemed as derogatory to the dignity of a monarch; but, in this point, his majesty was no bad judge of the perversity of human nature, for he was accustomed to say, "Any one may take a sheep, if given, and neglect it; but nobody will buy one who does not mean to take care of it." At this particular time, a house belonging to Mr. Smith, adjoining the royal stables, had been burnt down and was now rebuilding, and Mr. Smith being on the spot, his majesty observed to him, that it would be a better house if the wall were carried a few feet further; to which Mr. Smith replied, that if that addition were made, he must necessarily trespass on his majesty's pro-

perty. The king, however, turned suddenly round, and said, "What, do you think I am a bad neighbour, take it—take it;" and instantly mounting his horse, rode off to join his party.

His majesty at this time devoted many of his leisure moments to the gratification of his partiality for gothic architecture, and which in consequence became the prevailing taste of the principal architects of the day. He occupied himself in the most sedulous manner in rendering the state of Windsor castle more uniform, by altering several of the windows; and erecting a new and very tasteful entrance into the state apartments.

His majesty perceiving also that Kew-house was so small as only to be fit for an occasional retirement, caused it partly to be taken down, and the porticoes were removed to the other house on the opposite side of the green; and in a short time afterwards he commenced the building of a new palace within Richmond gardens, which, however, in consequence of his majesty's illness, remained for a long time in an unfinished state. It is, however, on the whole, no favourable specimen of architectural skill or taste of the nineteenth century. It has all the gloomy grandeur of the feudal times, without any of the airy elegance of the gothic; and reminds us more of the person of the tyrant, than the palace of the monarch of the most civilized people of the world.

It was at the close of 1802, that the conspiracy of Despard was detected, the design of which was to massacre the king, and all the royal family. They were apprehended in Oakley-street, Lambeth, on the 18th of November; and the evidence on their trial being clear against them, they suffered the death of the traitor on the scaffold.

In the year 1803 war was renewed with France, and his majesty was doomed to expe-

rience the mortification of having his Hanoverian dominions wrested from him by the French; but it is impossible to describe the energy and patriotism which at this time distinguished the people of this country. They seemed to feel that the honour of the country was at stake, and that its dearest liberties and privileges were in danger of being destroyed by the relentless tyrant, who at this time ruled the destinies of France*.

His majesty, however, appeared to support this reverse of fortune with the greatest fortitude and philosophy; he seemed to feel him-

self stronger in the affections of his people, and on no occasion did he manifest it more strongly than on the 12th of August, when he arrived from Windsor at St. James's, for the purpose of proroguing parliament. He appeared in most excellent spirits—full of confidence and energy, and was received with the most ardent acclamations by the tens of thousands who crowded the park, and all the streets leading from thence to the parliament-house. It was the noble exhibition of a patriot king in the midst of a loyal people.

The 26th was a truly proud day for the

* Lord Whitworth was, during the short peace of Amiens, the British ambassador at the court of the haughty consul; and the following dialogue which took place between them on the subject of war and peace, is strongly indicative of the character of one of the most extraordinary men who ever figured on the theatre of this world.

On the 17th of March, there was a grand circle at the Thuilleries. The ambassadors of the different powers were in the saloon, with a numerous assemblage of strangers and ladies of distinction, generals, senators, tribunes, legislators, &c. &c. Buonaparte entered with an unusual alertness of manner, and, after saluting the company, addressed himself to lord Whitworth, in a tone sufficiently loud to be heard by all who were present—"You know, my lord, that a terrible storm has arisen between England and France."

Lord Whitworth.—"Yes, general consul; but it is to be hoped that this storm will be dissipated without any serious consequences."

Buonaparte.—"It will be dissipated when England shall have evacuated Malta. If not, the cloud will burst, and the bolt must fall. The king of England has promised by treaty to evacuate that place; and who shall violate the faith of treaties?"

Lord Whitworth (surprised at finding himself questioned in this manner, and before so many persons).—"But you know, general consul, the circumstances which have hitherto delayed the evacuation of Malta. The intention of my sovereign is to fulfil the treaty of Amiens; and you also know——"

Buonaparte.—"You know (with impetuosity) that the French have carried on the war for ten years, and you cannot doubt but that they are in a condition to wage it again. Inform your court, that if, on the receipt of your despatches, orders are not issued for the immediate surrender of Malta, then war is declared. I declare my firm resolution is to see the treaty carried into effect; and I leave it to the ambassadors of the several powers that are present, to say who is in the wrong. You flattered yourselves that France would not dare to shew her resentment whilst her squadrons were at St. Domingo. I am happy thus publicly to undeceive you on that head."

Lord Whitworth.—"But, general, the negotiation is not yet broken; and there is even reason to believe——"

Buonaparte.—"Of what negotiation does your lordship speak? Is it necessary to negotiate what is conceded by treaty—to negotiate the fulfilment of engagements, and the duties of good faith?—(Lord W. was about to reply; Buonaparte made a sign with his hand, and continued in a less elevated tone.) My lord, your lady is indisposed. She may probably breathe her native air rather sooner than you or I expected. I wish most ardently for peace; but if my just demand be not instantly complied with, then war must follow, and God will decide. If treaties are not sufficient to bind to peace, then the vanquished must not be left in a condition to offer injury."

Here this unexpected conversation terminated; if that term can be allowed, where the discourse was almost wholly on one side.

country. It presented the sublime spectacle of a patriot monarch, who reigned no less distinguished in the hearts of his people than on his throne, meeting the brave citizens of his metropolis, armed in defence of his crown and of the British constitution; and, with the characteristic virtue of the sons of Albion, resolved to continue free, or gloriously to fall with the liberty and independence of their country. Such a spectacle was worthy of such a people; such a people were deserving the superior blessings they possessed.

As soon as the light appeared, the greater part of the population of London was on the foot in every quarter, impelled by the most ardent and most laudable curiosity, to be present at this grand, interesting, and glorious scene. There was on every countenance not a common curiosity, such as was excited by former military spectacles, when the king reviewed his soldiers: it was a deeper and more lively interest. The ties which connected our gracious sovereign with his people, had been drawn closer by the common danger with which our audacious enemy had dared to threaten both. The mutual affections which have ever united them were enhanced. Instead of those common testimonies of mutual regard which marked their meetings on former occasions, there was now an uncommon ardour and earnestness in the salutations which his majesty received from the public; and an extraordinary warmth in the manner in which he returned them, excited by the unprecedented circumstances of the times. It was a strong and solemn assurance of the people to stand or fall with their king, and of the king to stand or fall with his people. This day, therefore, must have been to his majesty and the people of London, the most grateful of all the solemnities which they have celebrated together.

The congratulations on the escape of his majesty from the various dangers to which his precious life had hitherto been exposed, were scenes of gladness, in which the exultation was not restrained by any serious consideration: it was a general feeling of good-natured joy, in which every disposition that was not actually savage and inhuman must have indulged. But this day's solemnity was of a far different kind. The armed citizens of London came to shew their sovereign that they were ready to shed the last drop of their blood in his defence, in defence of the constitution, and of their country: the sovereign came to behold their ardour in the glorious cause, and to evince his own. These were the motives and the feelings of his majesty and the volunteers. The motives and the feelings of those whom sex, age, and circumstances rendered mere spectators, were too manifold to describe, or even to imagine; but, though less sublime, they were probably not less interesting, nor less commendable. The fathers, children, mothers, wives, and daughters, whose dearest relations go forth to meet the danger, must be agitated with a thousand feelings of tender anxiety, which, though inferior in moral rank to those that prompt the men in arms to the field, are still much to be admired and esteemed. All shewed a feeling in proportion to their condition: all shewed a feeling equally loyal and honourable. The corps evinced their zeal, and their strict attention to their orders, by being at the ground appointed for them before the time at which their attendance was commanded. As early as seven o'clock, several of the corps entered the park at the Grosvenor and Hyde-park-corner gates. By eight o'clock, all the corps stood assembled in close column of companies, in and behind the right of its own ground. A quarter-master, with the camp-colour-men of each corps, were on the ground

at seven, and one of them belonging to each corps attended at the different gates to conduct his regiment to its proper point. As the corps proceeded to their different stations, each marched with its right in front, so that when it arrived at the proper point, the right division stood on the ground it was to occupy in the line, and the other divisions were in close column behind it. The advantage of this arrangement was, that all the corps could, without the slightest confusion, deploy into line as soon as the signal was given. Soon after nine o'clock a signal gun, a twelve-pounder, was fired, and the general line was formed by deploying to the left: the line was formed at close ranks. The ranks were then extended, and the officers advanced in front. The corps that had guns stationed them on their right. The deploying into line, the forming at close ranks, and the subsequent opening of the ranks, were executed with great regularity and order, and did infinite credit to the discipline and attention of each regiment.

Majors general Finch, Burrard, Leslie, and Fitzroy, were on the ground by eight; the earl of Harrington, who commanded the line, about the same time. About nine, the commander-in-chief entered from Hyde-park-corner, with the duke of Cambridge, and their aids-de-camp. They proceeded along Rotten-row towards Kensington-gate. The duke of Cumberland, in the uniform of his regiment of light dragoons, entered shortly after at Hyde-park-corner, and proceeded towards Kensington-gate by the carriage road. A few minutes before ten, a twelve-pounder was fired as the signal of his majesty's approach, and immediately the whole force shouldered arms. It was not quite ten when his majesty, in his private carriage, attended by the duke of Kent in his uniform as general, and the duke of Clarence in the

uniform of the Teddington association, entered the park at the light-horse-gate, at Kensington. On entering the gate, his majesty alighted from the carriage, and mounted his charger. His majesty then rode forward, preceded by the life guards, and the royal grooms, with four led horses, elegantly caparisoned. His majesty was attended by the princes, and followed by her majesty, with the princess Augusta and princess Elizabeth, in an open landau. The princess Sophia and the princess Mary, with two attendants, came after in another of the royal carriages. The princess of the Gloucester branch afterwards joined the cavalcade, in a yellow coach. Opposite the entrance of Kensington-gardens, his majesty was met by the duke of York, the earls of Harrington and Chesterfield, generals Calvert, Stewart, Burrard, and Leslie, with lord Petersham, colonel Macquarrie, and the whole of the staff. As the procession advanced, it was joined, near the ring, by Monsieur, dressed in green, with red facings; the prince de Condé, in white, faced with blue; the duke de Bourbon, in white, faced with red; and the duke de Berri, in green. The French princes were on horseback, attended by several of the French noblesse, decorated with the insignia of several military orders. General Dumourier was in their train. The whole cavalcade was closed by a party of the 13th light dragoons; a regiment which had then frequently the honour to be associated in guarding his majesty. The royal cavalcade passed rapidly along the carriage-road from Kensington-gate, as far as the rear of the Knightsbridge barracks, where it turned, and crossed to the right of the line by the bottom of the Serpentine river; the piles, which are placed to prevent horses and carriages from passing that way, having been removed for the occasion. As soon as his ma-

jesty entered the park, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the guns of the artillery company. A second cannon announced his majesty's arrival at the centre of the line. The officers immediately saluted, the corps presented arms, and the bands played "God save the king." Immediately afterwards a third cannon was fired, and the corps shouldered and then supported arms. His majesty now proceeded to the right of the line, and passed along from right to left, each corps carrying arms as his majesty arrived near the right of the corps. Whilst his majesty passed along the front, the music played a variety of martial tunes. The grandest part of the spectacle was, when his majesty descended the hill, to repass, at the bottom of the Serpentine, to the corps on the left of the line, which were stationed along the foot-way to Kensington-gardens, with their front towards the water. By this time the fog, which had dimmed the splendour of the scene in the earlier part of the day, was in some degree dispelled, and the whole of the royal procession, as well as the immense crowd that followed in the train, had become tolerably conspicuous. A sight more grand or delightful was never witnessed. The whole of the ground in the rear of the royal train was covered to the summit of the hill with women elegantly dressed, interspersed with volunteers and officers in uniform; and, according as they descended, fresh numbers appeared on the summit ready to assume their places, till their progress was stopped at the Serpentine, to prevent the way from being choaked for his majesty's return. There was not the same opportunity of discerning persons of rank in this crowd as on ordinary occasions, from the attention to general accommodation, which so properly marked the general orders; no carriages, horses, or servants, were admitted

within the lines; and from the absence of those appendages of wealth and condition it was difficult to distinguish individuals. All that could be seen was, that the women within the line were chiefly in white dresses; and the men, with the exception of a few naval officers, sharp-shooters, and volunteer cavalry, in red. As far as we had an opportunity of nearer inspection, it was equally difficult to make distinctions. Beauty was prevalent in innumerable parties; and wherever beauty prevails, rank is always a subordinate consideration. The general *coup d'œil* was, however, grand beyond description. His majesty, having passed to the extremity of the line, returned again by the Serpentine, and took his position in the centre. Then, on the signal of the seventh gun, three volleys were fired by battalions from the centre to the flanks; and on the firing of the eighth gun, three loud, universal, and unanimous cheers were given, with hats and hands waving in the air, drums beating, and music playing "God save the king." On the firing of the ninth gun, the whole of the corps wheeled backwards on their left by divisions, and, having passed his majesty in the order prescribed by the general instructions, proceeded by the most convenient way to their different quarters.

The review being over at twenty minutes past one, the royal party, with the foreign princes, and the generals, returned again from the position which his majesty had taken in the centre of the park, by the Serpentine, and along by Rotten-row, to Piccadilly-gate, from which they crossed over, and went on to Buckingham-house, followed all the way by the immense crowd. Being no longer restrained by the military employed in keeping the lines, the people ran in all directions, to indulge their affection for their sovereign with a view of his

beloved person. The air resounded with their shouts; and his majesty shewed the deepest sense of their loyalty, as well by the expression of his countenance, as by pulling off his hat, and giving other marks of his reciprocal feelings. Never was such a concourse known with so little inconvenience: no one accident occurred; indeed, the only thing from which any accident could have been apprehended was, the extreme eagerness with which the crowd ran wherever his majesty could be seen; their impetuosity was such, on these occasions as to break through the best-fenced enclosures of the park, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the troops employed in keeping the ground could stop them, though the goodness of the motive produced no relaxation in the enforcement of this very necessary duty. On the return of the corps, after the review, about half-past one, all the windows in the streets through which they were to pass, were crowded with ladies. The principal houses in Piccadilly and Park-lane were filled with persons of the first distinction, as were those of St. George's-row, leading to Bayswater, and several in Oxford-street. The small houses at the gate to Hyde-park, and the rails to the very top, had a most singular appearance from the number of persons who had climbed to the top of them. Piccadilly was thronged with carriages of every description, none but those of ambassadors and princes being suffered to enter the park. With a similar laudable vigilance, carriages were excluded from Park-lane, Hereford-street, Green-street, Grosvenor-street, Mount-street, and Brook-street. It was owing to this precaution, that such an immense concourse was enabled to view this sublime sight, without a single accident.

Among the persons who attracted the most notice in the park, was Elfi Bey, who followed, though, from etiquette, he could not join, the

royal cavalcade. The bey was in his carriage, accompanied by his majesty's and his own interpreter, and his aid-de-camp. His servants were dressed in scarlet and gold, with green cuffs and collars, gold epaulets, plain cocked hats, with gold loop and button, and high white feather. The whole number of spectators, and men in arms, could not be less than 200,000; every person who could come from within a circle of twenty miles being collected. Many came to town from a distance of above one-hundred miles, to be present at the sight. The trees, the house-tops, every position from which curiosity could satisfy itself, were eagerly taken possession of. If we were to enumerate the minute particulars which were observed with interest in every particular spot, the task would be endless, and the detail fatiguing. It was, altogether, a day on which we have to congratulate London and the empire at large: it was a day which afforded the most glorious sight we ever witnessed, without a single circumstance to excite the smallest regret.

The volunteer corps reviewed this day were, the loyal London volunteer cavalry, 217 effective men; honourable artillery company, 994; first regiment of royal East-India volunteers, 640; second ditto, 636; third ditto, 585; first regiment of loyal London volunteer infantry, 737; second ditto, 657; third ditto, 804; fourth ditto, 790; fifth ditto, 501; sixth ditto, 647; seventh ditto, 404; eighth ditto, 777; ninth ditto, 651; tenth ditto, 587; eleventh ditto, 293; first regiment of Tower hamlets, 350; Whitechapel, 445; Mile-end, 333; St. George in the East, 230; Radcliffe, 183; Shoreditch, 294; Bromley St. Leonard, 175; Bethnal-green, 166; St. Catharine, 121; and Christchurch volunteers, 184. Total 12,401.

The ecstacy with which the grand review of the London district of volunteers went off on the

26th, excited a laudable ambition in the breasts of the Westminster, Lambeth, and Southwark corps, to surpass, if possible, their brethren in arms, in discipline, in zeal, and military appearance. So great was the anxiety in some corps, that the majority of the men never laid down in the course of the preceding night, the whole of which was spent in preparation: and even those who did, few, we may presume, enjoyed a wink of sleep. At six, the corps were mustered in their respective drill-grounds, and, at that time, there was every prospect of a fine bright day; but the appearance soon changed, and an approaching fog seemed resolved that the western district should have no advantage of weather over the eastern district, reviewed on the 26th. The fog, however, not content with equalling that of Wednesday, increased to such a degree, that, at half-past seven, not a single object could be seen in the park, and several of the corps would have passed by Oxford-street-gate, had they not been stopped by a party of life-guards stationed there to guard the entrance.

The eager expectation which ushered in the morning, now changed to fearful anxiety. It was too dark to observe the expression of the countenance; but every body, in tones of despondency, began to express their apprehensions that all the beauty of the military spectacle would be lost, and that a glimpse of the troops could not be obtained, much less a full view of them, and the embellishment of the scene. The houses, scaffolds, carts, caravans, and carriages of all descriptions, drawn up for the accommodation of spectators along the Bayswater-road, instantly began to drop their prices; and would have fallen still lower had not the fog, fortunately, begun to clear away about half-past eight, when the business of the day again assumed a cheerful aspect, and the

spectators eagerly assembled in amazing crowds and to a still greater extent than on the 26th.

The same excellent regulations to preserve order were observed as those which were adopted upon that day. The park was shut up all night, and the gates were not opened for the admission of the populace until eight o'clock, at which time the corps began to arrive. From that hour until ten o'clock, the crowds at Piccadilly-gate were so great, that the pressure became intolerable; many persons, it was feared, would be crushed or trampled to death, in the immense tide which endeavoured to force itself through the side-gates, the only ones for admission. In this situation, Jones, the Bow-street officer, under whose care the gate was, perceiving the imminent danger of the multitude pressing in upon the Piccadilly side, occasionally opened the main gates, and thus relieved the dreadful pressure. The parties stationed here and at the other gates, to preserve order, consisted of detachments of the guards, patrols, and the Bow-street officers, except Townsend and Sayers, who attended their majesties. As each corps entered, the party or guards at the gates shouldered arms; and, as the colours passed, they presented arms. The corps immediately in the vicinity of the park, did not experience so much inconvenience from the darkness of the morning as those at a distance, who were obliged to muster earlier. From the lowness of their situation, the fog lay heaviest upon Lambeth and Southwark; and, though this circumstance was unfavourable to the scene as a spectacle, it was the source of much interest and variety.

The regiments reviewed this day were, the London and Westminster light-horse volunteers, 727 effective men; Westminster regiment of volunteer cavalry, 225; Southwark troop of yeomanry, 69; Clerkenwell cavalry, 46; Lan-

beth cavalry, 40; St. George's regiment of volunteer infantry, 663; St. James's ditto, 954; Bloomsbury and Inns of Court ditto, 929; Royal Westminster ditto, 961; Prince of Wales's ditto, 640; St. Margaret's and St. John's, 625; Loyal North Britons, 286; Mary-le-bone, 905; Law Association, 335; Duke of Gloucester's, 462; Somerset-place, 380; the St. Giles's and St. George's, 605; the Clerkenwell, 701; Loyal British Artificers, 542; the Loyal Britons, 127; St. Andrew and St. George's, 514; 1st and 2nd battalion of Queen's Royal, 926; the Knightsbridge, 124; the St. Clement's Danes, 245; 1st Surrey, 515; the St. Sepulchre, 174; the St. Saviour's, 151; the Loyal Southwark, 545; Lambeth, 555; Christchurch, 171; St. John's, 138; St. Olave's, 116; Rotherhithe, 158; Duke of Cumberland's corps of volunteer sharpshooters, 84; and the Gray's-inn corps of volunteer riflemen, 38. Total 14,676.

The total number of the troops inspected amounted, on both days, to 27,077: but, in many instances, a fourth part of the corps was absent on business or otherwise; and, we understood, that the returns of the effective strength of the several battalions, rendered some weeks after, made the number of volunteers, within the city, to exceed 35,000. The corps in the vicinity of the metropolis, as the Hackney, Pancras, Fulham, Hampstead, Islington, Camberwell, Wandsworth, &c., exceeded 11,000, making in the whole, a force of 46,000 men.

The king arrived at the Knightsbridge barracks, from Kew, about ten o'clock, accompanied by her majesty and the princesses; and soon after entered the park, preceded by a troop of horse, and surrounded by the dukes of York, Clarence, and Cumberland, and a number of officers on horseback. The procession moved across the head of the Serpentine river, up to the centre of the park. The fog now began to

disperse, and the sight became truly magnificent, as the cavalcade could be seen passing the lines to the distance of three quarters of a mile. After the king had inspected the line, the whole formed into companies, and passed his majesty in review, precisely in the same manner as the London corps on the 26th; and then retired in quick time. It is but justice to observe, that the regularity of the firing, on both occasions, did infinite credit to so numerous a body. The multitude was beyond conception great, particularly females; and it seemed as if the non-military population of the metropolis had come forward in honour of their defenders. The following general orders were issued, from the office of the commander-in-chief, to the commanding officers of the several volunteer corps:

"Horse-Guards, Oct. 29.

"His royal highness, the commander-in-chief, has received the king's command, to convey to the several volunteer and associated corps, which were reviewed in Hyde-park on the 26th and 28th instant, his majesty's highest approbation of their appearance, which has equalled his majesty's utmost expectation. His majesty perceives, with heartfelt satisfaction, that the spirit of loyalty and patriotism, on which the system of the armed volunteers throughout the kingdom was originally founded, has risen with the exigencies of the times, and, at this moment, forms such a bulwark to the constitution and liberties of the country, as will enable us, under the protection of Providence, to bid defiance to the unprovoked malice of our enemies, and to hurl back, with becoming indignation the threats which they have presumed to vent against our independence, and even our existence as a nation. His majesty has observed, with peculiar pleasure, that, amongst the unprecedented exertions which the present circumstances of the country have called forth, those of the capital of his united kingdom have been eminently conspicuous. The appearance of its numerous and well-regulated volunteer corps, which were reviewed on the 26th and 28th instant, indicates a degree of attention and emulation, both in officers and men, which can pro-

ceed only from a deep sense of the important objects for which they have enrolled themselves, a just estimation of the blessings we have so long enjoyed, and a firm and manly determination to defend them like Britons, and transmit them, unimpaired, to our posterity. The commander-in-chief has the highest satisfaction in discharging his duty, by communicating these his majesty's most gracious sentiments, and requests that the commanding officers will have recourse to the readiest means of making the same known to their respective corps.

FREDERIC, Commander-in-chief.

As the threatened invasion called into action the energies of the whole nation, it was natural for the heir-apparent to wish for an ostensible military appointment, equal to his rank, and honourable, in every respect, for a man of spirit. It would occupy too great a portion of our pages to enter into a detail of the different circumstances which attended the patriotic offer of the prince, and we must therefore confine ourselves to the warm, and, in some respects, intemperate correspondence, which took place between his majesty and other branches of the royal family, on this interesting subject.

The following is the substance of the correspondence :

Carlton-house, July 18, 1803.

Sir,

The subject on which I address you presses so heavily on my mind, and daily acquires such additional importance, that, notwithstanding my wish to avoid any interference with his majesty's ministers, I find it impossible to withhold or delay an explicit statement of my feelings, to which I would direct your most serious consideration.

When it was officially communicated to parliament, that the avowed object of the enemy was a descent on our kingdoms, the question became obvious that the circumstances of the times required the voluntary tender of personal service; when parliament, in consequence of this representation, agreed to extraordinary measures for the defence of these realms alone, it was evident the danger was not believed dubious or remote.—Animated

by the same spirit which pervaded the nation at large, conscious of the duties which I owed to his majesty and the country, I seized the earliest opportunity to express my desire of undertaking the responsibility of a military command: I neither did, nor do presume on supposed talents as entitling me to such an appointment. I am aware I do not possess the experience of actual warfare; at the same time I cannot regard myself as totally unqualified or deficient in military science, since I have long made the service my particular study. My chief pretensions were founded on a sense of those advantages which my example might produce to the state, by exciting the loyal energies of the nation, and a knowledge of those expectations which the public had a right to form as to the personal exertions of their princes at a moment like the present. The more elevated my situation, in so much the efforts of zeal became necessarily greater; and, I confess, that if duty had not been so paramount, a reflection on the splendid achievements of my predecessors would have excited in me the spirit of emulation; when, however, in addition to such recollections, the nature of the contest in which we are about to engage was impressed on my consideration, I should, indeed, have been devoid of every virtuous sentiment, if I felt no reluctance in remaining a passive spectator of armaments, which have for their object the very existence of the British empire.

Thus was I influenced to make my offer of service, and I did imagine that his majesty's ministers would have attached to it more value. But when I find that, from some unknown cause, my appointment seems to remain so long undetermined; when I feel myself exposed to the obloquy of being regarded by the country as passing my time indifferent to the events which menace, and insensible to the calls of patriotism, much more of glory, it then behoves me to examine my rights, and to remind his majesty's ministers that the claim which I have advanced is strictly constitutional, and justified by precedent; and that, in the present situation of Europe, to deny my exercising it is fatal to my own immediate honour, and the future interests of the crown.

I can never forget that I have solemn obligations imposed on me by my birth, and that I should ever shew myself foremost in contributing to the preservation of the country. The time is arrived when I may prove myself sensible of the duties of my situation, and of evincing my

devotion to that sovereign, who, by nature, as well as public worth, commands my most affectionate attachment.

I repeat, that I should be sorry to embarrass the government at any time, most particularly at such a crisis. But, since no event in my future life could compensate for the misfortune of not participating in the honours and dangers which await the brave men destined to oppose an invading enemy, I cannot forego the earnest renewal of my application.

All I solicit is, a more ostensible situation than that in which I am at present placed; for, situated as I am, as a mere colonel of a regiment, the major-general commanding the brigade, of which such a regiment must form a part, would justly expect and receive the full credit of pre-arrangement, and successful enterprise.

I remain, sir,

Very sincerely, your's,

G. P.

Right Hon. Henry Addington, &c.

This topic was further urged by the same personage, July 26, in a letter to Mr. Addington, who, in reply, briefly alluded to similar representations, which, in obedience to the commands of his royal highness, had been laid before his majesty upon former occasions.

The prince then desired his note of the 26th of July, to be laid before his majesty, which was accordingly done.

His majesty referred, in Mr. A.'s answer, to the order he had before given Mr. Addington; with the addition, "that the king's opinion being fixed, he desired that no farther mention should be made to him on the subject."

The following letter was then written by the prince.

TO THE KING.

Sir,

A correspondence has taken place between Mr. Addington and myself, on a subject which deeply involves my honour and character. The answer which I have

received from that gentleman, and the communication which he has made to the house of commons, leave me no hope but in an appeal to the justice of your majesty. I make that appeal with confidence, because I feel that you are my natural advocate, and with the sanguine hope that the ears of an affectionate father may still be opened to the supplications of a dutiful son.

I ask to be allowed to display the best energies of my character; to shed the last drop of my blood in support of your majesty's person, crown, and dignity; for this is not a war for empire, glory, or dominion, but for existence. In this contest, the lowest and humblest of your majesty's subjects have been called on; it would, therefore, little become me, who am the first, and who stand at the very footstool of the throne, to remain a tame, an idle, and a lifeless spectator, of the mischiefs which threaten us, unconscious of the dangers which surround us, and indifferent to the consequences which may follow. Hanover is lost—England is menaced with invasion—Ireland is in rebellion—Europe is at the foot of France. At such a moment, the prince of Wales, yielding to none of your servants in zeal and devotion—to none of your subjects in duty—to none of your children in tenderness and affection, presumes to approach you, and again to repeat those offers which he has already made through your majesty's ministers. A feeling of honest ambition; a sense of what I owe to myself and to my family; and, above all, the fear of sinking in the estimation of that gallant army which may be the support of your majesty's crown, and my best hope hereafter, command me to persevere, and to assure your majesty, with all humility and respect, that, conscious of the justice of my claim, no human power can ever induce me to relinquish it.

Allow me to say, sir, that I am bound to adopt this line of conduct by every motive dear to me as a man, and sacred to me as a prince. Ought I not to come forward in a moment of unexampled difficulty and danger? Ought I not to share in the glory of victory, when I have every thing to lose by defeat? The highest places in your majesty's service are filled by the younger branches of the royal family; to me alone no place is assigned. I am not thought worthy to be even the junior major-general of your army. If I could submit in silence to such indignities, I should indeed deserve such treatment; and prove, to the satisfaction of your enemies and my own, that I am entirely incapable of those exertions,

which my birth and the circumstances of the times peculiarly call for. Standing so near the throne, when I am debased, the cause of royalty is wounded; I cannot sink in public opinion without the participation of your majesty in my degradation. Therefore, every motive of private feeling and of public duty induce me to implore your majesty to review your decision, and to place me in that situation which my birth, the duties of my station, the example of my predecessors, and the expectations of the people of England, entitle me to claim.

Should I be disappointed in the hope which I have formed,—should this last appeal to the justice of my sovereign, and the affection of my father, fail of success, I shall lament in silent submission his determination; but Europe, the world, and posterity, must judge between us.

I have done my duty; my conscience acquits me; my reason tells me that I was perfectly justified in the request which I have made, because no reasonable arguments have ever been adduced in answer to my pretensions. The precedents in our history are in my favour; but if they were not, the times in which we live, and especially the exigencies of the present moment, require us to become an example to our posterity.

No other cause of refusal has or can be assigned, except that it was the will of your majesty. To that will and pleasure I bow with every degree of humility and resignation; but I can never cease to complain of the severity which has been exercised against me, and the injustice which I have suffered, till I cease to exist. I have the honour to subscribe myself,

With all possible devotion,

Your majesty's most dutiful and affectionate

Son and subject,

G. P.

Brightelmstone, Aug. 6, 1803.

ANSWER FROM THE KING.

Windsor, Aug. 7.

My dear son,

Though I applaud your zeal and spirit, of which, I trust, no one can suppose any of my family wanting, yet, considering the repeated declarations I have made of my determination on your former applications to the

same purpose, I had flattered myself to have heard no farther on the subject. Should the implacable enemy so far succeed as to land, you will have an opportunity of shewing your zeal at the head of your regiment. It will be the duty of every man to stand forward on such an occasion; and I shall certainly think it mine to set an example in defence of every thing that is dear to me and to my people. I ever remain, my dear son,

Your very affectionate father,

G. R.

FROM THE PRINCE TO THE KING.

Brightelmstone, Aug. 28, 1803.

Sir,

I have delayed thus long an answer to the letter which your majesty did me the honour to write, from a wish to refer to a former correspondence which took place between us in the year 1798. Those letters were mislaid, and some days elapsed before I could discover them: they have since been found. Allow me then, sir, to recal to your recollection the expressions you were graciously pleased to use, and which I once before took the liberty of reminding you of, when I solicited foreign service, upon my first coming into the army. They were, sir, that your majesty did not then see the opportunity for it; but if any thing was to arise at home, I ought to be "first and foremost." There cannot be a stronger expression in the English language, or one more consonant to the feelings which animate my heart. In this I agree most perfectly with your majesty—"I ought to be the first and foremost." It is the place which my birth assigns me—which Europe—which the English nation expect me to fill—and which the former assurances of your majesty might naturally have led me to hope I should occupy. After such a declaration, I could hardly expect to be told, that my place was at the head of a regiment of dragoons.

I understand from your majesty, that it is your intention, sir, in pursuance of that noble example which you have ever shewn during the course of your reign, to place yourself at the head of the people of England. My next brother, the duke of York, commands the army; the younger branches of my family are either generals or lieutenant-generals; and I, who am the prince of Wales, am to remain a colonel of dragoons. There is something

so humiliating in the contrast, that those who are at a distance would either doubt the reality, or suppose that to be my fault, which is only my misfortune.

Who could imagine that I, who am the oldest colonel in the service, had asked for the rank of a general officer in the army of the king my father, and that it had been refused me!

I am sorry, much more than sorry, to be obliged to break in upon your leisure, and to trespass thus a second time on the attention of your majesty. But I have, sir, an interest in my character more valuable to me than the throne, and dearer, far dearer to me than life. I am called upon by that interest to persevere, and I pledge myself never to desist till I receive that satisfaction which the justice of my claim leads me to expect.

In these unhappy times, the world, sir, examines the conduct of princes with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant eye. No man is more aware than I am of the existence of such a disposition, and no man is, therefore, more determined to place himself above all suspicion.

In desiring to be placed in a forward situation, I have performed one duty to the people of England; I must now perform another, and humbly supplicate your majesty to assign those reasons which have induced you to refuse a request which appears to me and to the world so reasonable and so rational.

I must again repeat my concern that I am obliged to continue a correspondence which, I fear, is not so grateful to your majesty as I could wish. I have examined my own heart—I am convinced of the justice of my cause—of the purity of my motives. Reason and honour forbid me to yield: where no reason is alleged, I am justified in the conclusion that none can be given.

In this candid exposition of the feelings which have agitated and depressed my wounded mind, I hope no expression has escaped me which can be construed to mean the slightest disrespect to your majesty. I most solemnly disavow any such intention; but the circumstances of the times—the danger of invasion—the appeal which has been made to all your subjects, oblige me to recollect what I owe to my own honour and to my own character, and to state to your majesty, with plainness, truth, and candour, but with the submission of a subject, and the duty of an affectionate son, the injuries under which I labour, which it is in the power of your majesty alone at one moment to redress.

It is with the sentiments of the profoundest veneration and respect, that I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Your majesty's most dutiful

And most affectionate

Son and subject,

G. P.

Brighton, Oct. 2, 1803.

My dear brother,

By last night's Gazette, which I have this moment received, I perceive that an extensive promotion has taken place in the army, wherein my pretensions are not noticed; a circumstance which, whatever may have happened upon other occasions, it is impossible for me to pass by, at this momentous crisis, without observation.

My standing in the army, according to the most ordinary routine of promotion, had it been followed up, would have placed me either at the bottom of the list of generals, or at the head of the list of lieutenant-generals. When the younger branches of my family are promoted to the highest military situations, my birth, according to the distinctions usually conferred on it, should have placed me first on that list.

I hope you know me too well, to imagine that idle inactive rank is in my view; much less is the direction and patronage of the military departments an object which suits my place in the state, or my inclinations; but, in a moment when the danger of the country is thought by government so urgent as to call forth the energy of every man in its defence, I cannot but feel myself degraded, both as a prince and as a soldier, if I am not allowed to take a forward and distinguished part in the defence of that empire and crown, of the glory, and prosperity, and even existence of that people in all which mine is the greatest stake.

To be told I may display this zeal solely and simply at the head of my regiment, is a degrading mockery.

If that be the only situation allotted me, I shall certainly do my duty, as others will; but the considerations to which I have already alluded entitle me to expect, and bind me in every way to require, a situation more correspondent to the dignity of my own character and to the public expectations.

It is for the sake of tendering my services in a way more formal and official than I have before pursued, that

I address this to you, my dear brother, as the commander-in-chief; by whose counsels the constitution presumes that the military department is administered.

If those who have the honour to advise his majesty on this occasion, shall deem my pretensions, among those of all the royal family, to be the only one fit to be rejected and disdained, I may at least hope, as a debt of justice and honour, to have it explained, that I am laid by in virtue of that judgment, and not in consequence of any omission or want of energy on my part, &c.

G. P. W.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, &c.

It would be superfluous to pursue this correspondence any further; as a sufficiency has been already advanced to establish the character of the prince, during this alarming crisis of the country; and indeed the best commentary which can be made upon the whole affair, is to be found in a letter from the late lord Nelson to a friend, who had forwarded the printed correspondence to him, whilst cruising in the Mediterranean.

"I suppose there must be some strong reason for not complying with his royal highness's wishes. I think I see the king intends to have the prince and his regiment attached to his majesty's person. As a man and as a soldier, there can be no reason why his royal highness should not be promoted if he wishes it, but I believe we are now so well prepared, that the French will not venture a landing in England."

We have now the painful duty imposed upon us of recording an event, which cannot even now be mentioned without exciting feelings of universal regret; it was the forerunner of that malady which, in a short time, was to deprive the nation of one of its best of sovereigns. In the early part of 1804, his majesty had laboured under a dangerous and distressing affliction, and no communication whatever had been made on this very delicate and alarming subject, to either house of parliament.

On the 27th of February his majesty's ministers were called upon for an explicit communication, but in reply it was stated, that such a communication would be, not only inexpedient, but highly indecent under the particular circumstances of his majesty's indisposition. Upon this it was observed that no ministers whatever possessed the right of determining when a communication of that nature should be made to parliament. It was asked what would be the consequence of the total suspension of the executive authority, if the enemy, at such a crisis, were to effect a landing in this country. It was therefore required that the two houses of parliament should be apprized of the actual state of his majesty's health, in order to form an opinion of the steps necessary to be adopted for the public interest. If the communication were of a favourable nature, it would be the duty of parliament to determine what time should elapse before resorting to extraordinary measures. But if the communication should not be satisfactory, the house, in the exercise of its constitutional privileges, would be called upon to deliberate as to the steps proper to be adopted, and to decide whether those steps should be applicable to a contingent event, or directed to an immediate evil.

To this it was answered, that the resolution of ministers had not been hastily adopted, but was the result of much consultation; it was brought forward under the fullest impression of its necessity, and the most grave conviction of the responsibility which it necessarily involved. An assurance was given that in the event of invasion, the business of government would encounter no sort of impediment; for if any extraordinary occasion should arise, in which the executive power might be called upon to act, there existed no obstruction to the exercise of the royal functions. It was affirmed

that his majesty's ministers had abstained from making any communication, from a sincere conviction that it would be inexpedient, and that instead of being subservient to any useful purpose, it might only lead to discussions at all times to be reprobated, but more especially to be avoided in the particular circumstances of the empire. They did not question the right of parliament ultimately to determine whether any steps might be supposed requisite to meet any extraordinary emergency, arising from the suspension of the royal functions, or whether it might be expedient to adopt any measures beyond the common course of procedure.

These declarations on the part of ministers, were by no means considered as satisfactory. The most unpleasant rumours concerning his majesty were circulated, and no doubt was ultimately entertained of the real nature of his malady. The ministers were pressed hard for a formal communication on the subject, for it was contended that their proceedings tended to carry the doctrine of confidence to the most extravagant excess, for if it were admitted, as the ministers declared, "that at the time there was not any necessary suspension of such royal functions as it might be incumbent on his majesty to discharge;" the statement was qualified with respect to such functions, as extraordinary circumstances might render necessary. If the royal authority in the particular state of his majesty's health, was thus competent to some things and incompetent to others, ministers, it was asserted, took every thing upon themselves.

The statement respecting his majesty's health was thus rendered more explicit, by the declaration, that there was at that time no necessary suspension of the royal functions for any acts which were necessary to be done. This representation was, however, also deemed unsatis-

factory, but no measure was upon that ground submitted to parliament. This awful suspense, which was chiefly occasioned by the nature of his majesty's malady being generally known, was at length happily terminated on the 9th of March, when the lord-chancellor communicated to the house of lords the important information, that not satisfied with the reports and assurances of the medical attendants of his majesty, he had conceived it proper and necessary to have a personal interview with the sovereign, at which due discussion had taken place, with respect to the bills submitted to the royal assent, and he had no hesitation to aver, that the result of all that took place upon the occasion, fully justified him in announcing his majesty's assent to the bills specified in the royal commission. This communication diffused a general joy throughout the country, and the recovery of his majesty was hailed as a national blessing in the midst of the many unavoidable calamities in which the kingdom was then involved.

A visit to Weymouth was deemed essential to the recovery of his majesty's health, and he had not been long there, before a visible effect was produced upon his general health, which ultimately led to his complete recovery. The pursuits and pleasures of his majesty during this visit, were so similar to those recorded in a former part of this History, that any repetition of them is unnecessary; it must, however, be stated, that during the whole of his majesty's residence at Weymouth, it was observed to the great satisfaction of all his family, that his recollection of persons and past circumstances was as strong as formerly, and his conversation more lively and animated than usual; but in point of personal activity, his majesty had certainly but few equals. He appropriated very few hours to repose, and the remaining ones were dedicated to business or recreation,

in fact, he appeared never to be without a pursuit, nor to know the misery of an idle hour.

His majesty left Weymouth on the 29th of October, and on his way to Windsor, honoured Mr. Rose, at Cuffnell's, near Southampton, with a visit. He also visited the town of Southampton, where he received an address from the corporation, to which a most gracious answer was returned, expressive of his attachment to the corporation and town of Southampton, having been a freeman of that town from his infancy.

It was shortly after his majesty's return to Windsor, that the much wished for reconciliation took place between his majesty and the prince of Wales, by which an unhappy difference was terminated, which had occasioned a strong degree of grief in the breasts of every one of the royal family, and which had arisen from the circumstances of the refusal on the part of his majesty to accede to the wishes of his son, in regard to an appointment to a situation of actual service in the army. The reconciliation was carried into effect on the one part with the most profound respect, and on the other with the greatest veneration.

It was early in 1805, that his majesty received the following letter from Buonaparte :

Sir and Brother,

Called to the throne of France by Providence, and by the suffrages of the senate, the people and the army, my first sentiment is a wish for peace. France and England abuse their prosperity. They may contend for ages ; but do their governments well fulfil the most sacred of their duties, and will not so much blood, shed uselessly, and without a view to any end, condemn them in their own consciences ? I consider it as no disgrace to make the first step. I have, I hope, sufficiently proved to the world, that I fear none of the chances of war ; it besides presents nothing that I need to fear ; peace is the wish of my heart, but war has never been inconsistent with my glory. I conjure your majesty not to deny yourself

the happiness of giving peace to the world, nor to leave that sweet satisfaction to your children ; for certainly there never was a more fortunate opportunity, nor a moment more favourable, to silence all the passions, and listen only to the sentiments of humanity and reason. This moment once lost, what end can be assigned to a war which all my efforts will not be able to terminate ? Your majesty has gained more within ten years, both in territory and riches, than the whole extent of Europe. Your nation is at the highest point of prosperity ; what can it hope from war ?—To form a coalition with some powers of the continent ? the continent will remain tranquil : a coalition can only increase the preponderance and continental greatness of France. To renew intestine troubles ?—the times are no longer the same. To destroy our finances ?—finances founded on a flourishing agriculture can never be destroyed. To take from France her colonies ?—the colonies are to France only a secondary object ; and does not your majesty already possess more than you know how to preserve ? If your majesty would but reflect, you must perceive that the war is without an object, without any presumable result to yourself. Alas ! what a melancholy prospect, to cause two nations to fight merely for the sake of fighting ! The world is sufficiently large for our two nations to live in it, and reason is sufficiently powerful to discover means of reconciling every thing, when the wish for reconciliation exists on both sides. I have, however, fulfilled a sacred duty, and one which is precious to my heart. I trust your majesty will believe in the sincerity of my sentiments, and my wish to give you every proof of it, &c.

NAPOLÉON.

The good old monarch was, however, not to be entrapped by the wily Corsican, for a dignified official reply was sent, in which his majesty repeated his wishes for peace, but at the same time he was fully convinced that a permanent and honourable peace could only be attained by arrangements that should provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe and the world.

Windsor-castle was now the constant residence of his majesty, and the apartments intended for domestic use, were fitted up in all

the convenience of the modern style of magnificence; and with a view of exhibiting the new improvements, a most splendid fête was given at Windsor-castle, on the 26th of February, which was acknowledged not to have been equalled by any previous exhibition of the kind. The arrangements, which had been a long time in preparation were entirely under the direction of his majesty, and it was calculated that the expenses exceeded 50,000*l.* added to which, a new service of plate, supposed to be the most superb in the world, was prepared for the occasion; the apartments allotted to the fête were illuminated by the immense silver chandeliers brought from Hanover, interspersed amongst a variety of superb glass lustres of the richest designs.

About four hundred cards were distributed amongst the nobility and world of fashion; and the entertainments were proposed to be a ball, cards, and music, with supper, &c.

To give novelty to the scene, the king expressly ordered that the oratorio of Esther should be got up; choosing this not only as one of Handel's finest pieces, but because it had not been performed for many years. In the interior of the castle all was elegance and affability; but in the court-yard, and on the grand staircase, every circumstance of military pomp was exhibited by the disposition of parties of the Oxford-blues and Staffordshire militia.

The company began to assemble about seven o'clock, and on their arrival were severally introduced to their majesties by the royal pages, as on a court-day; but all etiquette was then at an end, and each party, after paying their respects, proceeded to view the rooms, which gave motion and animation to the scene; and as the visitors increased in number, the effect was considerably heightened by the brilliancy of their dresses.

To those who have visited the interior of Windsor-castle, it is needless to expatiate upon the splendour of the immense silver tables, or the elegant pier glasses with massy silver frames, which drew the attention of the company until the commencement of the concert: after this the merry dance led them to the ball-room, the floor of which was painted in the most beautiful style; from whence they departed not until the hour of supper, which was laid out in several apartments, the royal table being in the guard-room, and, by the king's express order, was placed on a platform raised some height from the floor, for the double purpose of enabling the royal party to see their guests, and to gratify the company by a good view of the royal hosts; for, though there was no apartment large enough to have admitted tables for all, yet two tables were spread along the sides of this room, which held about sixty each.

The royal service was entirely gold; the other tables were in silver; but the beautiful damask table linen was the greatest curiosity, for it had been entirely spun by the princesses.

To enumerate all the elegance of the supper is unnecessary; but we may add, that about eighty of the young gentlemen of Eton-school supped in the presence-chamber; the king having gone himself with the greatest condescension to Eton to invite them.

Such an assemblage could not fail to fill the town of Windsor to an overflow, on which account many of the company were obliged to return to London, but to those who could remain, the queen, next morning, gave a splendid public breakfast at Frogmore, which was attended by upwards of two hundred of the evening party, who commenced dancing about three, and enjoyed a splendid treat until six in the evening, being waited upon by the royal servants in full dress livery.

Although simple in his manners and pursuits in private life, yet in his royal character he was partial to shew and pageantry. There were few sovereigns who knew better how to support the state of royalty, or who, when occasion required, could divest himself of it, and fall, as it were, into the rank of a private gentleman.

One of the most splendid pageants which occurred during his majesty's reign, was the magnificent installation of the Order of the Garter, which took place at Windsor-chapel, on St. George's-day, the 23d of April, 1805, and for which his majesty had been long making the most extensive preparations. To detail the whole of this splendid ceremony would appear diffuse, and we shall merely confine ourselves to some of the most interesting circumstances which took place on this memorable occasion.

His majesty was particularly anxious that as many of the old customs should be preserved as possible, and accordingly in the first place he gave directions that a baron of beef should be procured weighing 162 pounds. This was roasted a few days previously to the installation, and it took above twelve hours to roast it. The novelty of the affair excited his majesty's attention in a particular degree, and during the time it was roasting, he brought several parties of distinction to visit it. Amongst the party whom his majesty took to view the roasting baron, was one of the barons of the exchequer. His majesty, in the most familiar manner, tapped the learned judge on the shoulder, saying, "May you Mr. Baron, never be roasted as this baron is," "Not even in your majesty's presence," said the learned judge. His majesty felt the keenness of the reply, and smiling turned away.

It is a singular fact that the number of knights assembled on this occasion amounted to twenty-six, which was not only greater than

at any previous installation of the order, but the number was exactly that of the order at its original foundation by Edward III., by whom the number was fixed at twenty-five knights, exclusive of the sovereign.

The day of installation was announced by the ringing of bells, and every note of military preparation. The first ceremony which his majesty performed, was the presentation of a pair of kettle-drums to the royal horse guards, blue. The regiment drew up opposite the grand entrance, where the king made his appearance a little before eight o'clock. The kettle-drums had been previously placed there, and his majesty then addressed colonel Dorrien; "I present these drums to you as a mark of my esteem for the good conduct of the regiment upon all occasions." The colonel then presented to his majesty a written address from the regiment, and a corporal having lifted the drums upon a horse, the band, consisting of eight trumpets, struck upon "God save the king." The regiment then gave a royal salute, and marched to their quarters, playing "Britons strike home."

His majesty then retired to robe himself for the approaching splendid pageant, and at ten the procession began to St. George's-chapel, all the arrangements of the ceremony having been previously settled by his majesty, and to which he adhered most strictly, conducting himself with every proper attention to the chivalrous spirit and splendour of the scene during the long space of seven hours.

The knights being all *companions* they set down at the sovereign's table, wearing their caps of state, except when the sovereign drank to them, when they rose up uncovered.

After the repast, the knights retired to the presence-chamber, and the ceremonial was finished after a day of splendour the most bril-

fant, and of chivalrous pomp the most magnificent and interesting.

It was by the king's express command that every possible facility was given to the company invited, and even to the casual visitors to view every part of the ceremony, and whilst the repast of the order was going on, the queen was not forgetful of the other guests, but did the honours of the castle with great attention to the nobility and gentry of both sexes, as far as they could be accommodated in that splendid residence.

It was at this period that the domestic felicity of his majesty was greatly embittered by the unfortunate differences which subsisted between the prince and princess of Wales, and the heavy charges which were adduced against the latter. The part which his majesty had to act on this occasion was one of peculiar difficulty and delicacy. He had the dignity of the crown to support, as well as the character of the court, and at the same time, his noble and generous disposition led him to treat with disdain the imputations which were cast upon the character of the princess of Wales, and which ended in a direct charge of an adulterous intercourse. The whole proceedings, however, of this momentous affair have been so amply and circumstantially detailed in a cotemporary work*, that we shall not enter into any further detail, than merely to adduce it, as the cause of most serious affliction to his majesty and to the whole of the royal family.

His majesty wishing that an amicable adjustment of the differences should take place, invited the princess of Wales to Windsor, where he shewed her royal highness the most marked attention, and at her departure presented her with two beautiful Arabian horses; he also

presented the princess Charlotte, at the same time, with a magnificent tea-service of wrought gold, brilliantly decorated with diamonds and rubies.

It is a curious fact that no monarch has been ever more annoyed with maniacs and idiots, than George III. Another instance of it took place on the 17th of March, when a man of shabby appearance was observed lurking about Windsor great-park, and on being questioned by the keepers, he replied that he came there by the appointment of Mr. Pitt to meet the king, and that he was in waiting for the king's carriage to convey him to the castle. As evident symptoms of derangement displayed themselves, the park-keeper took him into custody, and on his examination he turned out to be an Irishman, and a barrister, but being perfectly harmless, he was restored to his friends.

His majesty appears at this time to have given up all intention of residing in future in town, as in the course of this summer, the whole of the magnificent library was removed from Buckingham-house to Windsor, retaining only at the former a few books of general reference, for immediate use in matters of state or politics, and which were deposited in a small library fitted up for the purpose.

The king always paid particular attention to the naval and military institutions of the country, and at this period he expressed a particular desire to visit Chelsea-college, in order to examine the improvements which had been lately made there. Accordingly, on the 20th of June, their majesties, accompanied by the princesses and the royal dukes, arrived at the college at an early hour, and proceeded immediately to examine every part of that noble institution, even to the hall and the kitchens, at which the

* See Haish's History of the Life of Queen Caroline of England,

whole of the royal family expressed their entire satisfaction, and applauded the regulations by which the comfort and happiness of the worthy veterans were maintained.

The duke of York afterwards conducted his royal parents to view the Military Asylum; of which his royal highness was the founder and patron. The boys, amounting to the number of 472, went through the different manœuvres of marching, &c., and then retired to their halls to dine, singing, "God save the king." The sight was highly pleasing to his majesty, who admired the discipline of the little fellows, and the attention which was paid to their health and comfort. His majesty, on leaving the asylum, declared it to be one of the best conducted institutions in the kingdom.

The annual visit to Weymouth took place this year, but the happiness of the royal family was considerably diminished by two circumstances: the severe and alarming indisposition of the princess Amelia, and the death of the duke of Gloucester. A certain degree of coolness had existed, for some time, between the royal brothers, on the marriage of the duke with the countess dowager of Waldegrave, but the feelings of his majesty were more restrained by court etiquette, than by any personal resentment towards his brother. He could not consistently with etiquette receive his sister-in-law at court, but the offspring of the marriage were always treated by his majesty with the utmost tenderness and affection.

The year 1806 was memorable for the death of two of the most eminent statesmen who ever guided the destinies of the nation—Mr. Pitt died on January the 23d, and Mr. Fox soon followed him. Of the former it is unnecessary to enter into any panegyric; he stood fearlessly at the helm of his country, when it was assailed by the storms of faction and rebellion, and he well

merited the title of the "Pilot who weathered the storm." In him, his majesty lost one of the most skilful men who had distinguished themselves during his reign, and he deplored his loss with all the grief of the monarch and the patriot.

Of Mr. Fox, the country will always hold in remembrance the astonishing abilities which distinguished him in the senate and the cabinet, although it is impossible to close our eyes to the many political errors which he committed. Where is now the fame of those once celebrated characters who formed the phalanx of opposition through thirty years of his late majesty's reign? the great leader was gone; weak and weary, and half stunned by the democratic uproar which he had himself excited, he sunk into his grave, soon to be followed by the last breathing remnant of his party. His memory is that of a man recorded by his own confession, as the idol and the slave of party. He lived to see how fugitive is the title of "man of the people," and to do homage to his departed rival, the immortal Pitt, by involuntarily pursuing his footsteps. The confederation itself was broken, and dropped mouldering into the tomb of all the Capulets. But his majesty outlived all that had ever troubled his public or private thoughts. It is true he outlived his own faculties, but such was the force of his former example, that he still lived to the benefit of his people. His character, like a Pharos, continued still to cast a light upon the melancholy space that divided him from his people, still to illumine that distant region to which his humble confidence had been always directed, and where, we trust, his soul has found a blessed abode.

The following is a correct picture of the economy of the royal family at Windsor, at this period of our history; but which was, in a short time, to be interrupted by the return of

his majesty's malady, which deprived the nation for ever of one of the purest models of a monarch and a man.

"Our sovereign's sight is so much improved since last spring, that he can now clearly distinguish objects at the extent of twenty yards. The king, in consequence of this favourable change, has discontinued the use of the large flapped hat which he usually wore, and likewise the silk shade.

"His majesty's mode of living is now not quite so abstemious. He now sleeps on the north side of the castle, next the terrace, in a roomy apartment, not carpeted, on the ground floor. The room is neatly furnished, partly in a modern style, under the tasteful direction of the princess Elizabeth. The king's private dining-room, and the apartments, *en suite*, appropriated to his majesty's use, are all on the same side of the castle.

"The queen and the princesses occupy the eastern wing. When the king rises, which is generally about half-past seven o'clock, he proceeds immediately to the queen's saloon, where his majesty is met by one of the princesses; generally either Augusta, Sophia, or Amelia; for each, in turn, attend their revered parent. From thence the sovereign and his daughter, attended by the lady-in-waiting, proceed to the chapel in the castle, wherein divine service is performed by the dean, or sub-dean: the ceremony occupies about an hour. Thus the time passes until nine o'clock; when the king, instead of proceeding to his own apartment, and breakfasting alone, now takes that meal with the queen and the five princesses. The table is always set out in the queen's noble breakfasting-room, which has been recently decorated with very elegant modern hangings: and, since the late improvements by Mr. Wyatt, commands a most delightful and extensive prospect

of the Little-park: The breakfast does not occupy half an hour. The king and queen sit at the head of the table, and the princesses according to seniority. Etiquette in every other respect is strictly adhered to. On entering the room the usual forms are observed, agreeable to rank.

"After breakfast, the king generally rides out on horseback, attended by his equerries: three of the princesses, namely, Augusta, Sophia, and Amelia, are usually of the party. Instead of only walking his horse, his majesty now proceeds at a good round trot. When the weather is unfavourable, the king retires to his favourite sitting-room, and sends for generals Fitzroy or Manners to play at chess with him. His majesty, who knows the game well, is highly pleased when he beats the former, that gentleman being an excellent player.

"The king dines regularly at two o'clock; the queen and princesses at four. His majesty visits, and takes a glass of wine and water with them, at five. After this period, public business is frequently transacted by the king in his own study, wherein he is attended by his private secretary, colonel Taylor.

"The evening is, as usual, passed at cards, in the queen's drawing-room, where three tables are set out. To these parties many of the principal nobility, &c., residing in the neighbourhood, are invited. When the castle clock strikes ten, the visitors retire. The supper is set out, but that is merely a matter of form, and of which none of the family partake. These illustrious personages retire at eleven o'clock, to rest for the night. The journal of one day is the history of a whole year."

We have had frequent opportunities of recording instances of his majesty's public devotion, but there is perhaps no greater proof of undissembled piety of heart, than when it

diffuses itself into the more private and familiar actions. An instance of this we have it in our power to introduce, but delicacy forbids the insertion of the name of the individual who was so particularly an object of his majesty's bounty. An application was, in the year 1807, made to the benevolent compassion of his majesty, out of due order, by a person, who was reduced, with a large family to extreme distress. It succeeded far beyond his hopes, by his royal benefactor discharging debts of a considerable amount, and then presenting him with a handsome sum, but not without having privately inquired into his character and conduct. He was so overpowered by the graciousness and extent of the benefaction, as upon receiving it, to fall upon his knees, and, with a flood of grateful tears, to thank and bless the donor for his goodness. "Rise," said the condescending sovereign, "and go and thank God for having disposed my heart to relieve your necessities."

Another instance occurred about this time of his majesty's noble generosity, and in a quarter where it might be supposed that no great degree of liberality could be expected. The last legitimate descendant of the unfortunate house of Stuart, in the person of cardinal York, by a will made previously to his decease, bequeathed to the prince of Wales two objects on which he had always set a high value; these were the insignia of the garter, which had been worn by Charles I., and a valuable ring, of very high antiquity, which had been always worn by the kings of Scotland on the days of their coronation. His majesty no sooner heard of the demise of the cardinal, than, with the true spirit of benevolence and liberality, he ordered a pension of 2,000*l.* per annum to be paid out of the privy-purse, to the countess of Albany, as she had been latterly designated, widow of the young pretender, the unfortunate Charles

Stuart, and now left in a state of actual penury by the death of his brother in law.

It was in the year 1807, that the attention of his majesty was particularly drawn to the Catholic question, and which led to the most important results. The benefits which were to be derived from the emancipation of the Catholics were generally acknowledged, but it soon became a matter of notoriety, that objections to it existed in a quarter, to which the British public naturally look up with respect and deference. It is certain, that the consent of his majesty to the introduction of a bill similar to the Irish act had been obtained from him, though with reluctance. A gross attempt was, however, made to impose upon his majesty, but which was counteracted by his acuteness. The bill was brought into the house, but some alterations had been made in it, after it had been submitted to his majesty. These alterations did not indeed affect the principle of the bill, but it must have been presumed that they would give the bill a very different aspect in the judgment of his majesty. If deference or fidelity obliged ministers to apply for the assent of his majesty to the introduction of the original qualified measure, and even that assent was so difficult to be procured, there appears no less obligation to have informed him of alterations which were afterwards considered expedient, and to which there was too great reason to presume he would refuse his sanction.

This information was, indeed, actually communicated. A detailed despatch, containing the modifications of the bill was submitted for the king's inspection. But ministers must have been sufficiently experienced in office, to know that what is there communicated, is certainly often, if not in most cases, never examined, that his majesty in fact neither did nor could

peruse the various and voluminous documents which, in compliance with established and deferential forms, were perpetually presented to him, and that when mutual confidence prevails between the king and his ministers, his majesty justly regarded the detailed examination of papers as superfluous. It was obviously, therefore, incumbent upon ministers, in the case under consideration, not to content themselves with a mode of information which they had every reason to suppose might be ineffectual, and which it was their intention should be so, they ought to have been solicitous to communicate to the king orally, all those circumstances which suggested the expedience of modification, and to have entered fully and minutely into the extension of that plan which had been at first presented. Indeed, at this period it does not appear that his majesty was by any means aware of the extent of the intended bill, but a short time after its introduction into the house he became fully acquainted with the nature of its new provision, and resolutely declared his dissent from them. He decidedly objected to any extension of the act of 1793, and ministers after having led the people of Ireland to entertain high hopes, and after having fully developed their plans to the house, thought it preferable to abandon the measure altogether, rather than revert to its original proposition.

It is impossible not to suppose that some portion of irritation now operated on both parties, each having been disappointed, and the sovereign, there is too much reason to apprehend, having been misled. Such a state is always more easily aggravated than healed. Ministers, in withdrawing the measure as already mentioned, required that a declaration should be minuted, in which they reserved the power of expressing their opinions on the subject, and of suggesting any measure on it which in future

they might deem expedient; the declaration being at the same time accompanied with a profession of their sincere wish to consult the personal ease and comfort of his majesty. This requisition, it must be acknowledged, wore more the appearance of wayward petulance than of wisdom. Though intimation had been given of a wish that the subject might not be brought forward, no pledge for this forbearance had been demanded; and, consequently, the right of suggesting measures, which the expediency of circumstances might dictate, still remained. The introduction, therefore, of this minuted reserve, not conferring any right which did not previously exist, was altogether unnecessary. Its novelty was calculated to alarm attention. The professions of respect with which it was connected, were ill calculated to do away that irritation which it was adapted to excite. It exhibited on the part of its authors an over solicitude for self-vindication, in connexion with little respect with the sovereign's dignity, and carried the air of menace much more than of deference.

At this proposition, therefore, so indelicate and indiscreet, his majesty appears naturally to have taken the alarm; and, considering that the most scrupulous forbearance need not be exercised towards servants whose declarations of respect seemed connected with acts of defiance, he not only refused his consent to such a record as that required, but in his turn insisted on a written assurance from ministers, that they would never again propose the measure which was abandoned. This demand was resisted, as incompatible with their honour and duty. The breach had now extended too far to admit of being closed; confidence was mutually impaired, and sensibility was incurably wounded; and the necessary consequence, the resignation of ministers, followed shortly after.

Accordingly on Tuesday the 24th of March, lord Grenville received a letter from his majesty, stating, that he would be ready to receive his and his colleagues' resignation, on the following day, at twelve o'clock. They accordingly attended on Wednesday, at the Queen's palace, at the above hour, when all of them had private audiences of his majesty, according to their rank in office, and resigned their seals, except the lord-chancellor, who retained his office till the Wednesday following. His majesty afterwards held a private levee, when the new ministers kissed hands on their appointment.

This resolute and constitutional conduct of his majesty raised him to a high degree of popularity. The corporation of the city of London addressed him upon the occasion, to which his majesty replied in the following manner :

I receive, with the greatest satisfaction, the assurances you give me of your concurrence in those principles which have governed my conduct on the late important occasion. It has ever been my object, to secure, to all descriptions of my subjects, the benefits of religious toleration ; and it affords me particular gratification to reflect, that during my reign these advantages have been more generally and extensively enjoyed than at any former period ; but, at the same time, I never can forget what is due to the security of the ecclesiastical establishment of my dominions, connected as it is with our civil constitution, and with all those blessings which, by the favour of Providence, have hitherto so eminently distinguished us amongst the nations of the world.

But his majesty, with his usual firmness, determined to complete the work, which he had so ably begun ; and accordingly on the 25th of April, parliament was unexpectedly prorogued by a speech from the lords commissioners, previous to an intended dissolution, in which it was stated, that " his majesty was anxious to recur to the sense of his people, while the events which had recently taken place, were yet fresh in their recollection."

His majesty was this year again subject to the annoyance of a female maniac. On the 27th of May, about two o'clock, as the dukes of York and Cambridge were coming out of the Queen's palace, a woman, about forty-five years of age, decently dressed, presented a letter to the duke of York, at the door of the lodge : his royal highness was about to take the letter, but Sayers, who was in attendance, knowing her, and suspecting she was deranged, put her aside, and desired her to go home. She went a few yards from the house, but in a few minutes returned close to the railway of the palace, and remained there during the whole afternoon. About five o'clock, when the king's travelling-carriage entered by the iron gate before the palace, to wait for his majesty, she rushed in after it, unperceived by the sentinels. She was, however, observed by Sayers and Mr. Baker, the gentleman-porter, who followed her with all possible speed, and stopped her before she got to the door of the palace. Sayers secured her, and took the letter from her. It appeared to be directed " To the king and queen," with " God save the king" on it. There were five other letters inclosed in it. From their contents there was no doubt of her being deranged. Her name appeared to be Margery Flett, and she resided in Star-court, East-Smithfield. Those who recollected the appearance of Margaret Nicholson, when she attempted to stab the king, reported her to have been a similar woman, and dressed exactly like her.

The family circle of his majesty was now increased by the arrival of the duchess of Brunswick, who took refuge in her native country from French violation and usurpation. He had not seen his sister for above forty years, and their first meeting was truly affecting. The duchess took up her residence at Blackheath, in order that she might be in the vicinity of her

daughter, who at this time required all the consolation which a parent could give her.

His majesty often visited his sister, and to her influence may be ascribed the manner in which his majesty acted in the unfortunate differences which then existed between the prince and princess of Wales; in which the amiable character of friend and mediator was joined, and which would have led to the happiest results, had they not been thwarted by party intrigue and strong personal dislike.

His majesty, at this period, was highly gratified by a most handsome present of Merino sheep, selected from the most approved flocks in Spain. It was a gift of gratitude from the grand junta of Spain, for the noble manner in which England stepped forward to her aid, to rescue her from the tyranny of the Corsican usurper. The sheep were of the Cavana of Paular, one of the very finest in point of pile, and esteemed above all others for the beauty of carcase. The number sent from Spain to his majesty was 2,000, equal to the two subdivisions of the original Cavana. To make the present more valuable, these were selected by the shepherds from eight subdivisions, in order to choose young, well-shaped, and fine-wooled animals.

The whole number embarked was 2,214, of these 214 were presented by the Spaniards to some of his majesty's ministers, and 427 died on the journey, either at sea, or on their way from Portsmouth to Kew. His majesty, with a noble spirit of generosity, was graciously pleased to take upon himself the whole of the loss, which reduced the royal flock to 1,573.

Thus to this amiable and patriotic monarch were the agriculture and manufactures of this country indebted for some of their most valuable improvements, and which have placed them in so high a state of perfection, as to defy

the endeavours of the continental nations to rival us in the foreign markets.

The peace of mind of his majesty was considerably injured at this time, by the charges which were brought against the duke of York, and which, at first, threatened the most serious consequences to the country. The feelings of his majesty were, however, in some degree pacified on perusing the letter which his royal highness addressed to the house of commons, in which his innocence was attested in such an open and liberal manner, that, although he, as well as the country, might deplore the connexion which he had formed, yet in the breast of those, who were not determined at all hazards, to acknowledge the guilt of his royal highness, a strong conviction rested, that he would ultimately triumph over the deep machinations of his enemies, and be restored to that high degree of popularity which it had been his happiness to enjoy.

His majesty, however, saw himself, with concern, obliged to accept the resignation of his illustrious son, but he could not condemn the motives which led to it, and accordingly, sir David Dundas succeeded his royal highness as commander-in-chief.

We will not enter here into a detail of the weakness and imbecility displayed by the latter, when contrasted with the resolution and energy which distinguished the administration of his royal highness. The change was sensibly felt, and by the army in particular, but by degrees, the intricacies of the plot began to develop themselves; the turpitude of his accusers began to exhibit itself in its most odious light, and, like a star for a time eclipsed, he gradually emerged from his temporary obscurity, and his traducers, like a passing meteor, flung for a time their baneful light upon the world, and fell to rise no more.

It were to be wished that the hand of Heaven had been stayed, and that the faculties of the afflicted father would have outlived the period of his son's restoration to the post which he has so ably filled, but we can only bend to the decree, and mourn the lot to which monarchs as well as their people, are subject.

The following account of his majesty's devotion at this period, when visual darkness had nearly closed upon him, and mental darkness was soon to envelope him, will be perused with a melancholy interest, and the sigh of regret will rise, that such a monarch should have suffered those severe privations; but some satisfaction arises at the thought, that Heaven chasteneth those whom it loves.

The account is extracted from a letter written by a native of Windsor, now resident at Hull: "Having a wish to see his majesty, I went before eight o'clock in the morning to the castle; and as soon as the clock struck eight, the gates were thrown open and our correspondent was conducted to the private chapel, by an attendant, who left him there alone full five minutes when he brought another gentleman. Shortly after came the chaplain, looked out the lessons, &c., then sat down a few minutes, when a pair of doors opened, and his majesty, led by two attendants, came in, followed by two of the princesses and lady Albinia Cumberland. After his majesty had been conducted to his chair, service began, when his majesty acted as clerk through every prayer, in a most audible voice. At the petition, 'Give peace in our time, O Lord!' his majesty, with uplifted eyes and hands, repeated, 'Because there is none other that fighteth for us;' then with the strongest emphasis, added, 'But only thou, O God!' What particularly struck our correspondent, was his majesty followed the chaplain through the Psalms, nearly as correctly as if he had pos-

sessed his eyesight, and had a book before him."

The commencement of the fiftieth year of his majesty's memorable reign, introduced the well-known jubilee, when the British nation gave full scope to their joy and enthusiasm on the celebration of an event so auspicious. A detail of all the festivities which distinguished that memorable day, would not only be tedious but unnecessary, but throughout all parts of the empire, the hungry were fed—the naked were clothed—schools were endowed—hospitals were founded—the prison doors were thrown open to the unfortunate debtors—and every heart which man was capable of making glad, rejoiced on that day.

With regard to the king, personally, on this happy occasion, we may remark, that he attended divine service at the chapel, Windsor-castle, between eight and nine o'clock, accompanied by the queen, princess Elizabeth, and the dukes of York and Sussex; after which the queen and princess proceeded to Frogmore, where a triumphal arch had been raised, to inspect the preparations for a complimentary fête, in honour of the august consort and parent.

A large ox roasted whole had been prepared by the queen's order in Bachelor's-acre, which was viewed by the whole royal family, with the exception of the king, and the princess of Wales, who were not present: at one o'clock also an appropriate royal salute of fifty guns was discharged from a grove in Windsor-park; and at night the queen gave a most superb fête at Frogmore, which, in point of taste, splendor, and brilliancy, had on no occasion been excelled; but his majesty did not appear.

The picture, however, which we can give of the venerable monarch at this moment, was drawn by a worthy divine, after having asked a gentleman who was in the habit of close and

official attendance on the princess Amelia, during her long protracted illness, of what nature were the interviews and conversations held between her and his majesty, and who replied : " They are of the most interesting kind." The divine inquired : " Are they of a religious tendency?" " Yes," said the gentleman, " decidedly so ; and the religion is exactly of that sort, which you, as a serious christian, would approve of. His majesty speaks to his daughter of the only hope of a sinner being in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. He examines her as to the integrity and strength of that hope in her own soul. The princess listens with calmness and delight to the conversation of her venerable parent, and replies to his questions in a very affectionate and serious manner. If you were present at one of those interviews, you would acknowledge with joy, that the gospel is preached in a palace, and that, under highly affecting circumstances. Nothing," added he, " can be more striking than the sight of the king, aged and nearly blind, bending over the couch on which the princess lies, and speaking to her about salvation through Christ, as a matter far more interesting to them both than the highest privileges, and most magnificent pomps of royalty."

The effect which such conversations must have had upon the expiring princess, is fully illustrated by the following stanzas, which, upon incontestible evidence, are known to have been the effusions of her parting spirit :

Unthinking, idle, wild and young,
I laugh'd, and danc'd, and talk'd, and sung ;
And proud of health, of freedom vain,
Dream'd not of sorrow, care, or pain :
Concluding, in those hours of glee,
That all the world was made for me.
But when the hour of trial came,
When sickness shook this trembling frame,

When folly's gay pursuits were o'er,
And I could dance and sing no more,
It then occur'd how sad 'twould be,
Were this world only made for me.

We are now arrived at that epoch which may, with propriety, be called the close of his majesty's reign, the dreaded bolt was launched—it smote its victim—he suffered, and he died.

The youngest and favourite daughter of his majesty, the princess Amelia, had long suffered under a most painful and dangerous complaint. Calumny, in all the hideousness of its nature, had attached a cause to it, but a purer or more virtuous being never graced this sphere. During the year 1809, and especially about the time of the jubilee, her life was despaired of ; and in the opinion of the most skilful medical men, it was scarcely thought possible that she could survive many days. Contrary, however, to their belief and predictions, she recovered so far as to be pronounced out of immediate danger, and even to afford some slight and transient hopes of ultimate and perfect health. Sea-bathing, moderate exercise on horseback, to which she was partial, and every thing that medical knowledge could prescribe, were adopted ; but though they served to prolong her existence, and afforded incidental relief, there were some conversant with the nature of her malady, whose hopes of her perfect recovery were not very sanguine. In the month of October, 1810, she was attacked with St. Anthony's fire, which brought on a relapse, and reduced her to an extreme state of debility, under which she displayed the noblest Christian faith and fortitude, during weeks of prolonged agony, uncheered by any ray of hope.

The circumstance of an amiable and beloved daughter, in the prime of life, passing rapidly on to her dissolution in the midst of the most acute sufferings, naturally preyed on the mind

and the parental feelings of his majesty. His whole soul became absorbed in the fate of his daughter, he dwelt on it with harrassing and weakening grief and despair, till at length the powers of his understanding gave way, and he fell a prey to that mental disorder under which he had suffered so much about twenty years ago.

The unremitting attentions of her venerable and afflicted parent, must have administered the most pleasing consolation, but her strength rapidly wore away, and she died without the least struggle or convulsion, as one dropping gently and calmly to sleep.

However, the early death of this truly amiable princess may be regretted, every reflecting and feeling mind must derive consolation from the consideration that a termination was given to her sufferings, which no human aid could remove. Her royal highness was from early youth of a very tender and delicate constitution, and was frequently attacked with very severe indispositions. In person her royal highness was tall and slender, and her air was graceful and prepossessing. Illness had impressed its marks on her countenance. In her manners she was mild, elegant, and affable. The frequency of ill-health, prevented her from studying so deeply as her elder sisters, yet she cultivated the fine arts with great success. In music and painting she was a proficient; she met with few rivals in excellence on the piano-forte, and displayed a classical taste in her selection and execution of pictures. Dignified, though condescending; benevolent without ostentation; lively, though a prey to sickness, which usually quenches the spirits, as well as the health of youth; she was beloved by all who lived within the sphere of hearing of her virtues. In performing the duties of humanity and benevolence, she was indefatigable, and the grateful sympathy with which all

her acts of this nature were performed, was not less soothing and gratifying, than the actual tribute of her kindness. In the relations of domestic life, nothing could exceed her attention, assiduity, and affection. The great affliction of knowing that her beloved father was ill, had been spared her. The last act of her filial tenderness, evinced that it was not in the power of sickness, severely as it operated on her, to lessen the amiable temper of her mind; for, languid as she was at some periods, and tortured by pain at others, a desire of testifying her affection for the best of fathers, was one of the strongest feelings of her heart. Conscious of her approaching end, she wished to present her father with a token of her filial duty and affection; and she had the satisfaction of placing on his finger a ring made by her own directions for the express purpose, containing a small lock of her hair, enclosed under a crystal tablet, set round with a few sparks of diamonds. The posy on the ring was, "Remember me." A poet whom we should not be expected to quote in praise of royalty, Peter Pindar, wrote some verses on the mournful present to his majesty, entitled, "The last Token, or Remember me," which we shall quote, as a proof that the bard possessed other talents than those of satire, which he might have exercised, if not so profitably, certainly much more to his credit. The following is a copy of the verses alluded to:

With all the virtues blest, and every grace
To charm the world, and dignify her race.
Life's taper losing fast its feeble fire,
The fair Amelia thus bespoke her sire:

Faint on the bed of sickness lying,
My spirit from its mansion flying,
Not long the light these languid eyes will see;
My friend, my father, and my king,
Oh, wear a daughter's mournful ring,
Receive the token, and remember me.

The scene of the ring, for which the king had received no previous preparation, was observed to affect his majesty deeply: his mental distress became immediately great, and in a few days the royal family were alarmed by the appearance of the melancholy symptoms of the disorder which ever after afflicted his majesty, until death terminated his sufferings. So rapid was the operation of the dreadful malady, that its existence was decisively confirmed by the physicians before the death of the princess Amelia, although not many days intervened between the fatal result and the presentation of the ring.

The prince of Wales and the duke of York were the executors of her will, which was opened on the 4th of December. The former being residuary legatee, in the most handsome manner presented her jewels, &c., to the princess Mary, her favourite sister; the princess had, indeed, directed them to be sold to defray her debts and a few legacies, but the prince, in the most generous manner, took them upon himself. Her royal highness was privately interred on the 14th of December in St. George's-chapel, Windsor.

We must now revert to political circumstances connected with this melancholy event. At the close of each session of parliament, it is usual for the king to prorogue it to a period much antecedent to that at which it is determined that it should actually assemble for the despatch of public business. At the close of the session 1810 accordingly the parliament was prorogued for a short time. A commission for its further prorogation to the 1st of November was signed by the king; and by virtue of this commission, when the parliament met on the day to which it was first prorogued, the further prorogation legally took place. As there was no immediate and urgent necessity that parliament should

actually proceed to business on the 1st of November, a proclamation was issued by the king in council, stating it to be the royal pleasure that it should be further prorogued.

It was of course intended that this proclamation, which was of itself of no efficacy to prorogue parliament, should be followed by the usual commission, signed by the king, and read in the house of peers, by commissioners appointed for that purpose. But, alas! the faculties of the king were gone, and he stood solitary and alone, living in a world of his own creation.

In this state it was of course impossible for him to appoint commissioners to meet parliament on the 1st day of November, and to prorogue it, agreeably to the proclamation which had been issued, to a future day. When, therefore, parliament assembled on that day, there was no power to prorogue it; and on the other hand, the king not being present and no commission being sent for opening the parliament, they could not as a parliament constitutionally proceed to business. The only case exactly similar, and to which therefore the houses of lords and commons could look up as a regular precedent, was that of 1789; parliament that year had been prorogued to the 20th of November; and as the regular commission for its further intended prorogation had not been signed by the king, it necessarily met on that day. The peers and the commons remained each in their separate chambers; and the chancellor in the former, and Mr. Pitt in the latter, having informed their respective houses of their assembling without the usual notice and summons, and stated the impropriety of their proceeding to any public business under such circumstances, an adjournment for fifteen days was unanimously resolved upon. This precedent was strictly followed upon the present melan-

choly occasion. Indeed it was particularly necessary that an adjournment should take place, since scarcely any members of either house were in London. In the house of lords, therefore, the chancellor, on the motion of the earl of Liverpool, was directed to write a letter to every noble lord, informing him that the house of lords expected his attendance on Thursday, the 15th day of November; and in the house of commons the speaker, on the motion of Mr. Perceval, was directed to transmit a similar notice to the members of that house.

From the peculiarly mild symptoms which his majesty's complaint assumed at the commencement of his illness, it was hoped that it would not be of long continuance, but would soon yield to medical care and skill. Sir Henry Hallford, and Drs. Heberden and Baillie were the physicians first called in; they signed the bulletins that were regularly issued, at first once and afterwards twice a-day, from the 29th of October to the 4th of November, when the signature of Dr. Reynolds appeared. On the 9th of that month Dr. Willis was called in; and then there was too much reason to apprehend that his majesty's disorder was deemed of a more decided and obstinate nature than was originally supposed.

When parliament met again on the 15th of November, ministers informed each house respectively that the medical attendants on his majesty expressed the most flattering and confident hopes that he would in a very short space of time be enabled to resume the exercise of the royal functions; and they therefore moved that parliament should again adjourn for another fortnight, to the 29th of November. Although a few members gave it as their opinion that parliament should immediately take the proper and constitutional measures to supply the deficiency in the royal authority,

yet by far the greatest number in both houses thought that deference to the judgment of the physicians, as well as delicacy to his majesty, called for another adjournment; and as the prince's more immediate friends were decidedly and unanimously of this opinion, the determination of parliament not to proceed immediately to supply the vacancy in the royal power, but to wait the events of another fortnight, was very generally approved of by the nation as highly proper and becoming, as well as honourable to the feelings of the heir-apparent.

During the progress of the second fortnight, (that is from the 15th to the 29th of November,) his majesty's disorder, instead of relaxing in its strength, or assuming a milder and more favourable aspect, put on the appearance of more obstinacy, and threatened to be of long continuance. Ministers could not expect that parliament would again be satisfied with their report of the examination and opinions of the physicians. It had been plainly stated during the former debate that parliament could not constitutionally receive, and therefore could not constitutionally act upon, evidence on any point, even of the smallest moment, not taken in the regular manner before a committee appointed by each house for each special purpose. The appointment of such committees, however, ministers wished to postpone as long as circumstances would permit; and determined to have recourse to them only after every intermediate measure had been adopted. A few days, therefore, before the 29th of November, the president of the council summoned all the members of his majesty's most honourable privy council to assemble for the purpose of examining the physicians touching the state of his majesty's health, and the probability in their opinion of his speedy resumption of the royal authority. When the privy council met,

the regular forms forbade any member of it, who felt so disposed, to put any particular questions to the physicians. The president of the council alone interrogated them; and not according to his own judgment, or in a very strict and searching manner. On the contrary, a few general questions touching the actual state of his majesty at that time, and the probability of his speedy recovery, were put to each physician by the president of the council. The answers of course were equally short, and expressed the opinion of each of the physicians, that although his majesty at that time was certainly incapable of exercising the royal functions, yet they had no doubts of his recovery, and that his recovery would not be long delayed.

Taking their stand upon the result of this examination, ministers, when parliament met on the 29th of November, again moved a further adjournment for another fortnight, till the 13th of December. In support of this motion they urged the extreme indelicacy of proceeding to fill up the defect in the exercise of the royal authority, when, in the opinion of those who from their opportunities of observation, as well as from their skill and experience, were the best qualified to judge, that defect would be of short duration.

They called upon parliament not to show any backwardness to put the same trust in an examination of the physicians, conducted before all the members of the privy council, and communicated now in the presence of those who had witnessed it, that they had done a fortnight before, when on the faith of an examination conducted solely by his majesty's ministers they had acceded to the motion of adjournment. Even those members who had at that time objected to an adjournment, because parliament knew nothing respecting his majesty's

health but what ministers thought proper to communicate, could not with any consistency step forward to oppose the present motion, since it was grounded on a regular and public examination of the physicians, the result of which was communicated in a manner and from a quarter that must place it above all ambiguity or suspicion.

Ministers further urged in support of a further adjournment, that no evil could possibly result from it: in the short space of a fortnight there was not the most distant probability that any circumstances would arise which would necessarily call for the exercise of the royal authority. Much good therefore would result from the adjournment, while it could scarcely produce any serious inconvenience. It would unequivocally manifest the respect which parliament entertained for the king; while, on the contrary, if measures were immediately adopted to supply the defect in the royal authority, in the face of the opinions of all the physicians that they entertained the most sanguine hopes of his majesty's speedy recovery, would it not bear the appearance of disrespect, and almost of a wish to set aside a monarch under whom the nation had reached a most enviable and unparalleled height of prosperity and happiness; a monarch who during the whole course of a reign seldom equalled in point of duration, had uniformly studied the welfare of his people?

The answer of the opposition to these arguments proceeded in many respects on strong ground. In reply to the argument that there was much more reason now, when the regular and official examination of the physicians by the privy council was before parliament, to act on their opinion, than there had been on the 15th of November, when ministers alone conveyed it, they observed that that very opinion,

though now proceeding from a more constitutional source, and a source which parliament might perhaps recognise and act upon, was in itself much less worthy of confidence than it had been a fortnight before. On the 15th of November ministers had informed parliament that the physicians unanimously expressed their firm belief that his majesty would speedily recover, so as to be capable of resuming the exercise of the royal functions. On this belief, communicated to parliament, ministers grounded their motion for an adjournment to the 29th of November. It was therefore to be supposed, that they understood the physicians to be of opinion, that by the end of the adjournment his majesty would either be perfectly recovered, or that symptoms of amendment would have discovered themselves under such an unequivocal character, and in such a regular and progressive manner, that his recovery might be deemed certain within a very short space of time.

Now, what had been actually the case? If a judgment were to be formed from the bulletins, which had been issued between the 15th and 29th of November, (and the bulletins assuredly would rather soften than aggravate the real state of his majesty's health, if that state were unfavourable,) his majesty, so far from having made the slightest or slowest advance towards recovery, was most assuredly then, on the 29th of November, not merely worse, but in a more unpromising condition than he had been on the 15th of that month. Parliament, therefore, might deem a communication of the opinion of the physicians, coming from the privy council, before whom they had been regularly and solemnly examined, as deserving of more weight than a communication of their opinion, taken by ministers in a loose and irregular manner; and yet it might, without the charge of incon-

sistency, put less confidence, not in the communication of the opinion given before the privy council, but in the opinion itself.

The malady with which it had seemed fit to Providence to afflict his majesty, spurned the skill and the predictions of medical men more than most others: it was no wonder therefore that they should have been mistaken; that they had been so was too fully and fatally proved by the state of his majesty's disorder between the 15th and 29th of November; and as this particular kind of malady gained strength, when it was not actually weakened by time, there was too much reason to apprehend that the predictions of the physicians would not meet a more accurate fulfilment during the next fortnight; and that at the end of that time ministers themselves would be convinced that present hope of recovery was unfounded, while they had yet to commence their measures for supplying the defect in the royal authority.

Those who opposed the motion for another adjournment, contended, that the question of delicacy or respect to the sovereign was very unfairly and improperly introduced; but if it were to be taken into consideration, it ought to be viewed in connexion with the probability of his majesty's speedy recovery, and with the inconvenience and mischief to public affairs, which might result from a protracted suspension of the royal authority. If there was no good reason to suppose, that by the end of another fortnight the king would be capable of resuming his functions; there could be no just ground for further delay, nor could the charge of precipitancy or want of delicacy be fairly brought forward. But above all things, the inconvenience which might arise in the management of the affairs of the nation, if parliament did not immediately proceed to supply the defect in the royal authority, pointed out in the

plainest and strongest manner the impropriety of the proposed adjournment.

Ministers had, even in this early stage of the business, manifested a disposition to regulate their conduct in all respects by the proceedings of parliament in 1789 on a similar melancholy occasion.

But the opposition contended, that the state of the country and of Europe at that time, and at the present period, were so very different, that no line of proceeding could fairly be drawn from one to the other. In 1789 Great Britain was in a state of profound peace; the powers of Europe, and especially France, were either not disposed or by no means able to disturb her tranquillity.

In 1810 the case was unfortunately quite the reverse: we were embarked in a tremendous warfare with a man who had nearly the whole power of Europe at his command; having at length gained an opportunity of rousing and supporting a people who were determined to resist him, we had embarked in their cause with almost the whole of our disposable force. Affairs in the peninsula of Spain and Portugal were in such a critical state that the balance might be turned for or against us, by seizing or passing by the opportunity which a single day might present. Sweden had declared war against this country; but while the royal authority was suspended, no hostile measures could be commenced against her.

The opposition also dwelt with much force of argument on the internal state of the country; our commerce was falling rapidly before the power of Buonaparte; credit and confidence in the mercantile world had experienced a serious shock; many bankruptcies had already taken place, and much misery had ensued; and the prospect was by no means of a cheering kind.

Under these circumstances of foreign warfare

and domestic distress, was not an executive government possessed of the utmost strength absolutely necessary? And if such an executive government were necessary, what must unavoidably be the result if the country were suffered to go on, even for the short space of a fortnight, totally deprived of an executive government?

It was also argued, that as much time must elapse, after parliament had come to the determination of adopting measures to supply the defect in the royal authority, before a regent could be appointed, no delay should take place under the pretext of the probability of the king's speedy recovery. If he did recover, as ministers expressed a belief he would do within the space of the next fortnight, the measures which parliament might have begun to adopt would of course be dropped; if he did not recover, some progress would have been made towards putting the nation under its complete and regular government.

Thus then no harm could possibly result from parliament proceeding directly to business; while serious inconvenience, or a palpable breach of the constitution, would be the consequence of further delay. Many things which could alone be performed by the king were already waiting for execution; and it was reasonable to suppose, in the present state of affairs, that few days could pass over, without a necessity for the power or interference of the royal authority. If nothing were done in such a case, the nation must unavoidably suffer; if ministers took upon themselves the royal functions, they would create a dangerous precedent, and tend to impress the public mind with a suspicion that the executive government might be dispensed with.

Such is a sketch of the arguments used on the one hand by the ministers, who proposed a

further adjournment; and on the other hand by the opposition, who contended that parliament should immediately proceed to fill up the vacancy in the exercise of the royal authority. The motion for adjournment was carried by a large majority; and the 13th of December was fixed upon for the re-assembling of parliament.

During this period the disorder of his majesty by no means abated, even according to the vague report which the bulletins presented: and it was generally understood that the malady had assumed a more violent character, so as not only to bear hard upon the bodily health of his majesty, but to threaten a long and tedious endurance, and to cast great doubts upon his ultimate and perfect recovery. When, therefore, parliament met again on the 13th of December, ministers found themselves driven to the necessity of proposing that his majesty's physicians should be examined by a committee appointed by each house; and of explicitly stating, that, if the report should not hold out a prospect of speedy recovery, they would then propose measures to supply the defect in the royal authority.

The physicians in attendance upon his majesty were examined in a very particular and strict manner by the committee of both houses. From this examination three important points, directly bearing on the subject before parliament, were made out; and some curious information was collected respecting the previous illness of his majesty, in the years 1801 and 1804.

In the first place, the nature of the complaint under which his majesty laboured was scientifically and perspicuously described, especially by Dr. Willis. He stated it to be his opinion that it was a derangement of mind closely allied to delirium, and occasionally falling into it; but that there was a wide difference between

it and what was usually termed insanity. When asked to describe generally in what the difference consisted, he replied, "It consists principally in the different state of the mind, and the different state of the constitution also. In delirium the mind is actively occupied upon past impressions without any reference to present objects. A person under delirium resembles one talking in his sleep: he is totally insensible to all surrounding objects. The bodily health is at the same time considerably affected; there is great restlessness and want of sleep. In insanity the mind is acting upon some assumed idea, to the truth of which it will pertinaciously adhere, contrary to the strongest evidence of its falsity. The individual is awake to all surrounding objects:—the general health may be little or not at all impaired. Taking these two points as extreme points, derangement will lie somewhere betwixt them, partaking more or less of one or the other. The derangement which is the object of this inquiry, I consider partaking of delirium, but never partaking of insanity."

In the second place, the circumstances which induced the physicians unanimously, and with scarcely any difference in point of confidence, to adhere to their former opinion,—that his majesty would recover,—were particularly called for by the questions that were put to them and explicitly stated. These were, that the malady had originated from a known and specific cause, fully adequate to its production, without supposing any overruling inherent propensity; that his majesty had recovered from three previous attacks of the same disorder; and although he was now considerably further advanced in years, yet, from his temperance, vigour, and baleness of constitution, the chance of his recovery was much greater than that of most men not so old; and that the malady had not weakened the

faculties of his mind;—they were still entire; that is, his powers of memory and judgment, though exerted on erroneous subjects, and not within his control at all times, were as perfect as they had been previously to the commencement of the disorder.

In the third place, the physicians, although, as has been stated, they expressed the most confident hopes that his majesty would recover so as to be able to resume the exercise of the royal functions, yet were disposed to apprehend that he would still be liable to occasional "hurries," and that, as he had already laboured under four attacks, it was probable he would continue liable to repeated attacks.

It is curious to compare the statements given by the physicians, when they were examined before the committees of the two houses, respecting his majesty's health on particular days, with the bulletins that were issued on those days. It came out, that more than once his majesty had been in great and imminent danger, at a time when the bulletins pronounced him to be no worse than usual; and that he had had repeated paroxysms with intermissions of comparative calmness, though no such variations were stated to have occurred in the bulletins. It perhaps was impossible to draw up the bulletins in such a manner that they should give a clear and definite account of his majesty's health each day; but assuredly they might have led the public nearer to the truth than they actually did; and have been guarded against becoming, what they were too generally deemed, a by-word for ambiguous information.

As in the course of the examination of the physicians it was necessary to advert to the malady under which his majesty had laboured in the years 1801 and 1804, some very curious and important particulars were brought to light. It came out from the evidence of Dr. Kebleton,

that in 1804 his majesty continued indisposed, and actually under the care and control of Dr. Willis and his men, long after the bulletins were discontinued; and the nation, from that circumstance and from his majesty's resuming his royal functions, had been induced to believe that he was perfectly recovered. The use which the opposition made of this discovery will be noticed afterwards. It was most ungracious and unwelcome to the men who were then in power; but it necessarily produced the beneficial consequence of making ministers more guarded and cautious in declaring his majesty well on this occasion.

As the physicians expressed a decided opinion, not only that his majesty was at that time totally incapable of performing the high functions of the regal office, but that his recovery would probably be slow and remote, and that it went beyond their skill and foresight to fix the period when that happy event would take place, it was absolutely necessary for ministers to proceed towards the appointment of a regent. As the houses of lords and commons, the session not having been opened in the usual form, by a speech from the throne or by commissioners named by his majesty, could not constitutionally be regarded as the parliament of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, but merely as a convention of the estates, it was necessary to have a regard to this character in the mode of their proceedings. The business originated in the house of commons, where, on the 20th of December, the house having resolved itself into a committee on the state of the nation, Mr. Perceval moved three resolutions:

The first simply declared the opinion of the committee respecting the indisposition of his majesty, and the consequent interruption of the personal exercise of the royal authority.—This

resolution, affording no room for debate or difference of sentiment, immediately passed unanimously.

The second resolution declared it to be the opinion of the committee, that "it is the right and duty of the lords spiritual and temporal and commons of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland now assembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely representing all the estates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority." When this resolution was put, sir Francis Burdett rose and denied that the house lawfully, fully, or freely represented the people:—a denial so totally out of place, that it discovered a greater portion of zeal than of judgment or discretion. Besides, as was well remarked in reply, if the house were not the legal representative of the people of Great Britain, how came the baronet to occupy a seat in it, or while there to waste his arguments upon it? Supposing he carried a motion to that effect, of what avail would it be; since it was the opinion and determination of a body of men, by the very terms of the motion, not the legal representatives of the united kingdom?

The third resolution declared it to be the opinion of the committee, that for the purpose of supplying the defect in the personal exercise of the royal authority, "and for maintaining entire the constitutional authority of the king, it is necessary that the said lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, should determine on the means whereby the royal assent may be given in parliament to such bill as may be passed by the two houses of parliament, respecting the exercise of the powers and authorities of the crown, in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, during the continuance of

his majesty's present indisposition. To upon this resolution the debates were very long and interesting, both in the house of commons and the house of lords.—Mr. Perceval in this stage of the business, as well as in all the future stages of it, had availed himself of the proceedings of parliament during his majesty's indisposition in 1789. The resolutions he proposed were framed exactly according to those presented at that period by Mr. Pitt. It is well known that Mr. Fox, in a moment of unguarded warmth, opposed the mode of proceeding by bill, denied the right and power of parliament to confer the royal authority during his majesty's indisposition; and asserted in too strong and unqualified terms, the undoubted right of the prince, as heir-apparent, under such circumstances. This assertion was afterwards modified by Mr. Fox; but it had passed his lips and gone into the world; and it afforded too fair and strong a ground of argument to be neglected by his adversary Mr. Pitt. The opposition in 1810 recollected how much the popularity of Mr. Fox had suffered in consequence of his zeal for the prince:—they therefore, in objecting to the mode of proceeding by bill, went so far as to deny the power of parliament to confer the royal authority, but expressly declared it to be their opinion that the prince had no right to it. They therefore proposed, that an address from both houses should be presented to the prince of Wales, requesting him to take upon himself the executive duties. If the prince acceded to this request, he was then to open parliament in the regular and constitutional manner, and to give his consent to the act which constituted him regent. As lord Grenville and his friends adhered to the doctrine on this point which they had maintained and acted upon in the year 1789, the opposition lost the question for proceed-

ing by address, in both houses, by a great majority.

It is evident at first sight that there are very serious objections to both modes of proceeding, whether by bill or address; and the advocates for each measure adroitly called the attention of parliament, rather to the contradiction and absurdities of the plan proposed by their adversaries, than to the clearness and consistency of their own.

The objections to the mode of proceeding by bill, however, lay more on the surface; they were more glaring and formidable; the mere reading over the resolution suggested them to the mind. A regent was to be appointed by a bill; that is, in other words, the king, whose incapacity was the sole cause of the measure, was, by a fiction of law, to be declared to have given his assent to a bill which constituted another person regent; because, as that bill expressed, his majesty was incapable of exercising his royal functions. A bill so passed could in common sense be viewed in no other light than as the act of the two houses of parliament. It had the consent of two branches of the legislature, but assuredly not of the third. The great seal might be put to it, and its validity therefore might not be a proper subject of dispute except in parliament; but to impress upon a bill the character of constitutional validity, and to form it in such a manner that its validity cannot be investigated, are certainly very different operations. The measure, therefore, which ministers proposed, and which was adopted, stripped of its affected obscurity, amounted merely to this: the two houses of parliament appointed the regent; they did not indeed do so directly; they first appointed a person to put the great seal to the bill; but as this person was appointed by them, not by the king, and as he was not at liberty to refuse affixing the great

seal, but was a mere ministerial servant of parliament, nothing can constitutionally be recognised in this bill but the power and the consent of the house of lords and the house of commons.

The objections to the mode of proceeding by address were not so glaring, they lay deeper; but when brought up to light, as they were by ministers, they appeared to possess considerable weight.

The precedent of the revolution in 1688 was brought forward in support of an address; but, as was observed, at the revolution, the object was to appoint a king; the throne was then vacant. In 1810 the object was to appoint a temporary regent; the king still occupied the throne, although from indisposition the personal exercise of the royal functions was suspended. The case of the revolution, therefore, did not apply as a precedent.

But the measure of proceeding by address, it was contended by ministers, not only was unsupported by precedent; it was fraught with absurdity and contradiction. What was proposed to be done? That the two houses of parliament should present an address to the prince, praying that he would take upon him the executive duties. If he agreed to this prayer, it might naturally be supposed that he was now constitutionally regent; and that the defect in the exercise of the royal authority was fully supplied.

The first step which it was proposed that the regent should take, appeared to justify this supposition; he was to open parliament in the same manner as his royal father would have done, either by a speech from the throne or by commission. But here the absurdity and inconsistency began; the prince, though by opening parliament he had exercised and displayed the royal powers, was not actually regent. Parliament thus opened were to proceed in the

act for making him regent; and this act was to receive the sanction of the prince, after which it was to be regarded as part of the law of the land, and he was become regent in reality. Now what can be plainer than that if the prince, when in conformity with the wishes of the two houses of parliament he took upon himself the executive duties, was constitutionally and actually regent, there was no necessity for any further power or proceeding to make him so? if he was not constitutionally and actually regent, by what power, recognised by the laws or even by the common sense of mankind, did he open the parliament in the first instance, and afterwards give his consent to an act which first constituted him regent? The mode of proceeding by bill was objected to, because no royal authority existing, the bill could not constitutionally become an act of parliament and part of the law of the land.

But the mode by which the opposition proposed to get rid of this difficulty and objection, actually contained them both, though not so glaringly. By the latter mode, the prince was to be appointed regent by an act, as it was to be termed, which had received the consent of the two houses of parliament, and of the prince. So far as both the proposed modes were to be sanctioned by the consent of parliament, they are of equal authority. By the mode of bill, nothing in fact is added to the consent of the two houses; the king's consent is stated to have been given; but it had not and could not be given. By the mode of address, the consent of the prince is added to that of the two houses; but as it would be the consent of a person not yet recognised or empowered by law to give his consent, the authority and consent of the two houses alone could constitutionally be admitted.

The difficulties and objections, therefore, to

each mode seem to be of nearly equal strength; they both trench upon the constitution, because the constitution, not having provided for such a case, expressly declares that every act, before it be incorporated with the law of the land, shall receive the consent of the three branches of the legislature. In some respects, however, one mode might be deemed less objectionable, because less dangerous than the other. In the grand rebellion, as it is termed, the parliament gained possession of the great seal, and by a fiction similar to that which was proposed and adopted by ministers they obtained the king's political assent to a war which they levied against his person. No such practical evil had actually resulted from the mode of proceeding by address; but a contingent evil it might certainly produce, if a precedent were established; on some future occasion the reigning monarch might be thus set aside by a vote of address from parliament to his successor.

Ministry having succeeded thus in persuading parliament to adopt the precedent of 1789, moved that the regency should be offered to the Prince of Wales under certain restrictions; following also in this respect the example set them by Mr. Pitt in that year. The general question concerning the necessity or propriety of restrictions was argued at considerable length, as well as the particular restrictions which ministry meant to impose on the prince.

Although Lord Grenville and his particular friends, consistent with the conduct they had pursued in the year 1789, voted in favour of the general question respecting restrictions, and of most of the particular restrictions, the majority of ministers, especially in the house of lords, was very small. Indeed, while that house sat merely as a branch of the convention of the estates, and when of course proxies could not be admitted, the ministers found themselves in

a minority in more than one division on this subject. But after parliament was regularly opened by a commission under the great seal, and the whole business came again before the house of lords in its regular and usual character, ministers regained their majorities, and carried every thing agreeably to their wishes. In one particular they wished to deviate from the precedent of 1789; by granting to the regent the power of calling to the house of peers such officers as might distinguish themselves in a manner that was generally rewarded by a peerage; but Lord Grenville, determined to adhere strictly to that precedent, opposed this exception, and the regent consequently was debarred entirely from increasing the number of the members of the house of lords.

In defence of the general principle of restrictions it was contended, that the difference between king and a regent was essential; that it by no means followed, because the former possessed certain powers and prerogatives, that the latter should necessarily and of course be vested with the same in all their extent and efficacy. As therefore the right of the regent to them could not be established, the expediency of parting them was to be investigated. In his appointment, two circumstances were particularly to be adverted to and secured: in the first place, that he should be enabled to fulfil the important and arduous duties of the situation to which he was called; and in the second place, that he should not have it in his power to keep back the royal authority from the just and legal possessor, whenever that possessor should be restored to a sound mind, or to deliver it into his hands in a cramped or narrowed state.

In arguing this important question, ministers contended, that the personal character of the prince ought to be kept completely out of

sight; and that a decision should be come to, solely on general grounds. If there were any prerogatives which the constitution had attached to royalty capable of being employed by a regent, whose authority was temporary, towards the establishment of an influence which would make the sovereign, when he resumed the exercise of his functions, in the slightest degree dependent upon him; such prerogatives ought not to be vested in him. It was the duty of parliament to take care that, when his majesty recovered, he should find his authority in every department of the state as perfect and extensive as it had been at the commencement of his illness.

In conformity with these general principles, ministers proposed the restrictions under which the prince was to act as regent. The most important were, that he should not have the power of adding to the number of peers; that he should grant no place or pension for life, which the constitution did not require should be so granted; and that the officers of the king's household, with a few trifling exceptions, should not be removable by him, nor any vacancy which might occur there be filled up. The care and custody of the king's person during his illness was vested in the queen; and to assist her, a council was nominated, consisting among others of the archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Ellenborough.

In the proposed regency bill of 1789, the queen's council was to have consisted of those who held certain high offices in the church and state. Mr. Perceval, in a very ungracious and needless manner, deviated from his general precedent, and designated the queen's council, not by their offices, but their names; thus debarring every one, who in case of a vacancy might be called by the regent to any of these offices from supplying the place in the queen's council which

his predecessor had held. We have already stated, that in the examination of the physicians before the committees of the two houses, it had come out, that during his majesty's illness in 1804 certain acts of the royal authority had been performed at a time when the king was under medical care and influence. As Lord Eldon, in his capacity of chancellor, was regularly and officially responsible for having procured the royal assent, when it could not constitutionally be given, it was proposed in the house of lords, by lord King, that his name should be left out in the list of the council intended to be given to the queen for her direction and assistance. This motion, however, was negatived. The queen's council was empowered to call before them the physicians in attendance on his majesty, and through them the notification of his recovery was to be communicated to parliament and the people.

The opposition made a vigorous and formidable stand against the general principle of restrictions, as well as against the particular restrictions which ministers brought forward: and as in many of their divisions they were joined by Mr. Canning and lord Castlereagh, and their respective friends, as well as by other members who usually voted with ministers, the latter carried some of their motions only by a very small majority. The opposition rested their objections to a restricted regency, partly on the high improbability of the danger to the resumption of the royal authority, which a limitation of power was intended to prevent; and partly on the absurdity and impolicy of cramping the authority of the regent, and thus creating a positive and certain evil, for the purpose of avoiding one that was so very problematical. To talk even of the possibility of a regent employing any of the prerogatives of royalty in such a manner as to create and preserve to him-

self an influence hostile to the throne, they represented as ridiculous. But they chiefly dwelt on the right which the nation had to be governed, even during the temporary authority of a regent, in such a manner as might secure to them all the benefits that the prerogatives vested in the sovereign were intended and calculated to bestow; and on the unconstitutional rights which parliament were about to assume, of putting any of those prerogatives in abeyance, even for the shortest space of time.

With regard to the particular restrictions, the opposition maintained, that if the regent were deprived of the power of creating peers, it would go but a little way towards securing the resumption of the royal authority in all its strength and fulness, while it would necessarily throw him into the hands of ministers. If there were danger that having that prerogative he would abuse it so as to obtain a decided majority in the house of lords, and that this majority would continue attached to him even after the regency had ceased, and when he supported measures in opposition to his royal father; was there not at least equal probability, that the house of lords, as it existed at the commencement of the regency, with a decided majority in favour of ministers, would support their measures rather than those of the regent, and thus compel him to be dependent upon them? It must be supposed, either that the majority of the house of lords would adhere to the cause and interest of him to whom they considered themselves indebted, even against the wishes and interests of the person holding the executive government; or that they would desert their benefactor, and support government. If the former took place, the regent would be opposed by a majority attached to ministers, while he would have no remedy, in case he was deprived of the power of making peers; while,

on the same supposition, the king, if he found on the resumption of his authority that the majority adhered to the prince, could easily regain his ascendancy, by creating an additional number of peers. If on the other hand a regard to the wishes or interests of government must be supposed paramount, no possible inconvenience could arise from the prince having the power of creating peers; since when he ceased to be regent he would cease to have the majority.

So far the proceedings for the appointment of a regent had gone on during the year 1810: the full and final investment of the prince with that character did not take place till February 1811. But for the sake of completeness, we shall briefly state the remainder of the proceedings on this subject.

As soon as parliament had come to the determination to proceed by bill and not by address, and Mr. Perceval had sketched the plan of the restrictions which he intended to bring forward, he wrote a letter to the prince of Wales, communicating them to him. The prince in his reply simply and briefly referred Mr. Perceval to the celebrated letter which, on a similar occasion, in the year 1789, he had sent to Mr. Pitt, in which he had, in a most dignified and powerful strain of argument, protested against the proposed plan of a restricted regency; not because it conveyed a reflection on his personal character, but because, in his opinion, it broke through the very essence of the British constitution. He agreed, however, to accept the high and important trust, even though fettered and limited in such a manner as he was apprehensive might prevent him from fulfilling its duties so completely and beneficially to the nation as he could wish. But his regard for his father, and his desire, in the present embarrassing and melancholy situation of affairs, to lend the aid

of what ability he might possess, overcame all his scruples and objections.

His royal highness communicated to the male branches of his family the plan which had been sent him by Mr. Perceval; and they unanimously, in a note to the chancellor of the exchequer, protested against it: "as perfectly unconstitutional, and as contrary to, and subversive of, the principles which seated their family upon the throne of this realm." Mr. Perceval, in his reply, lamented that the measures he meant to propose to parliament appeared in that light to the royal dukes; but he had the satisfaction and the consolation to reflect, that they were founded on the precedent of 1789, and had then received the support of parliament, and consequently the approbation of his majesty.

The protest of the royal dukes was certainly uncalled for, and not exactly constitutional: in their character of peers of the realm, and in the house of lords, they had an undoubted right to declare their sentiments and to enter their protest: but, except in that character and in that house, their opinions were of no more weight or consequence than the opinions of any other individuals: if they expected they would have weight, given in this manner, they probably were mistaken: if they intended they should, they acted wrong, in so far as they wished to make use of their royal character to create an influence not acknowledged by the constitution.

Parliament was opened in the usual form, by a commission under the great seal, as soon as the heads of the bill for the proposed regency had passed through the two houses, as estates of the realm assembled under the particular circumstances of the case. The bill was again brought before parliament in its constitutional and regular character; every part of it was

again canvassed; and on every debate and division the strength and numbers of ministry increased, while the opposition became more feeble and languid in their efforts.

A committee of each house was appointed to wait upon the prince of Wales, for the purpose of receiving his formal acceptance of the regency. At the same time that he signified his acceptance, he lamented that the restrictions which would be imposed upon him, under the pretence of their being necessary to secure the resumption of the royal authority in all its power and splendour, deprived him of the opportunity of manifesting to his beloved parent and to the nation at large, that his duty and affection for the one, and his regard for the interests of the other, would not have permitted any wish or idea to have entered his mind of doing any act which would have restored a diminished power into the hands of his father.

As it was well known that the political attachments and principles of the prince lay all on the side of lord Grenville and lord Grey, it was naturally and generally supposed that as soon as he became regent he would dismiss the present ministry, and take the opposition into power. Arrangements were certainly in train for the formation and appointment of a new ministry: frequent conferences were held by the heads of the whig party and that of lord Grenville; particularly among that noble lord, lord Holland, lord Grey, and Mr. Ponsonby. It was rumoured that many difficulties stood in the way of a complete and final arrangement. Certainly the time for the prince to be invested with the regency was fast approaching, and no arrangement for a new ministry had taken place. In the mean while, the malady of the king, after undergoing frequent and great variations, assumed a much more mild and favourable form:

the physicians expressed themselves with more confidence respecting his complete recovery, and were disposed to hope that it was not far distant. The prince thought it his duty to ascertain exactly the sentiments of the physicians before he decided respecting the formation of a new ministry: and when he found that it was so favourable, and that probably his regency would continue but for a very few months, he resolved not to change the ministry, but to retain them, and by their means conduct public affairs as nearly as possible in the same manner as they had proceeded under his majesty. This determination he communicated to Mr. Perceval, at the same time explicitly and candidly stating to him, that his duty and affection for his beloved and afflicted parent made him unwilling to do a single act which might retard his recovery; and that this consideration alone had led him to come to the resolution which he now communicated to Mr. Perceval. He added, that it would not be one of the least blessings that would result from the restoration of his majesty to the royal authority, that it would set him free from a state in which, from the restrictions imposed upon him, he could not do all that the interests of the nation might require at his hands, and which, on account of those restrictions, he deemed unconstitutional. Mr. Perceval in reply, after stating the willingness of himself and his colleagues to remain in office, lamented that the prince should still regard the restrictions as unconstitutional; but assured him, that even under them, any ministry who possessed the confidence and support of his royal highness, would find no difficulty in conducting the affairs of the nation with satisfaction, credit, and success.

It may now be proper to advert to the facts which were stated in the house of lords by earl Grey, respecting the malady of his majesty in

the years 1801 and 1804, and upon which facts he grounded certain resolutions, which, although his statements were not and could not be controverted, were nevertheless rejected. One of the king's maladies began about the 12th of February, 1801, and lasted until the beginning of March, yet during this time though the sovereign was under the care and control of his physicians, councils were held, members were sworn, war was declared (by acts, if not regularly and officially,) against Sweden, and expeditions were sent out with as much activity as if the king were perfectly well, and competent to the full exercise of the royal authority and prerogatives. By the testimony of the bulletins, as well as by the evidence of the physicians, it was proved, that in the month of June of the same year his majesty suffered a relapse, yet all went on as usual; and the public could not possibly have divined that one branch of the British constitution was to all intents and purposes defunct. During the royal malady in the year 1804 the case was still more flagrant, and the proceedings and conduct of ministers more unconstitutional, and daringly criminal. From the 10th of February to the 3d of April in that year, according to the decisive and unquestioned evidence of Dr. Heberden, his majesty was again disordered; yet during this period of mental malady a commission for giving the royal assent to fifteen bills was issued; and other acts which, by the constitution, required the personal exercise of the royal authority were performed. Upon the strength of these facts, earl Grey moved, that the name of John Lord Eldon should be struck out from the list of the queen's council.

On this curious and highly interesting subject we shall offer only one remark:—Had any one, previous to the statement of earl Grey, been told that any British minister had dared to act

in the name of the king, when the king could not legally or constitutionally act for himself, and even to put his name to acts of parliament or other acts of the executive power, at a time when his name would not be recognised in any court of law as the name of a person competent to the performance of the most trifling act,—would he not either have expressed his disbelief of the assertion in the strongest terms, or, if he had given it belief, would he not have pronounced the minister so conducting himself, as totally unfit for his situation, and guilty of one of the most daring and grossest breaches of the constitution?—Yet, when it was actually proved that all this had been done, there were men found bold enough to maintain that it was perfectly justifiable, and to shelter this violation of the constitution under the convenient and most accommodating plea of necessity.

The regency bill now became the great question of parliamentary discussion, and the restrictions which were to be imposed upon the regent formed the principal ground of the opposition, which was made to it. We shall not enter into a detail of the arguments which were used in support of, and against the restrictions, but it was immediately concluded by the opposition, that the regent could not consistently keep those persons as his ministers, who had clogged his government with so many severe restrictions, and this conviction was so firmly rooted, that they had actually begun to appoint each other to the different offices of the cabinet. They were, however, not sufficiently grounded in the character of the regent, nor did they consider that his royal highness could pass a more severe censure upon his afflicted father, than by an immediate removal of those ministers in whom his father had reposed the most unlimited confidence. The hopes of his majesty's recovery were still sanguine, and the physicians

were decidedly of opinion, that the malady would be only temporary. Under these circumstances it would have been a gross violation of every honourable and tender feeling towards his majesty, were the regent to have instituted those changes, which on the supposed recovery of his majesty, could not but sensibly affect him. The prince, therefore, in all his actions, had the wishes of his father before him, and he was constantly guided by the principle by which his father would have acted, had his faculties been spared him.

The regent, therefore, determined to retain his father's ministers, and informed Mr. Perceval of it in the following letter, which is not less creditable to him in the relation of a son, than it is in that of the regent :

Carlton-house, February 4, 1811.

The prince of Wales considers the moment to be arrived which calls for his decision with respect to the persons to be employed by him in the administration of the executive government of the country, according to the powers vested in him by the bill passed by the two houses of parliament, and now on the point of receiving the sanction of the great seal.

The prince feels it incumbent upon him at this precise juncture to communicate to Mr. Perceval his intention not to remove from their stations those whom he finds there as his majesty's official servants. At the same time the prince owes it to the truth and sincerity of character, which he trusts will appear in every action of his life, in whatever situation placed, explicitly to declare, that the irresistible impulse of filial duty and affection to his beloved and afflicted father, leads him to dread that any act of the regent might in the smallest degree have the effect of interfering with the progress of his sovereign's recovery. This conclusion ALONE dictates the decision now communicated to Mr. Perceval.

Having thus performed an act of indispensable duty, from a just sense of what is due to his own consistency and honour, the prince has only to add, that among the many blessings to be derived from his majesty's restoration to health, and to the personal exercise of his royal

functions, it will not, in the prince's estimation, be the least, that *that* most fortunate event will at once rescue him from a situation of unexampled embarrassment, and put an end to a state of affairs ill calculated, he fears, to sustain the interest of the united kingdom, in this awful and perilous crisis, and most difficult to be reconciled to the genuine principles of the British constitution.

The ceremonial of the regency took place on the 5th of February, 1811, at Carlton-house, with great pomp and courtly etiquette. The following was the oath which his royal highness took; "I do solemnly promise and swear, that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to his majesty king George:" after which another oath was administered to him, by which he swore to execute the high office of regent, and to administer according to law, the power and authority vested in him.

Although the political measures of the regent excited the general attention of the country, still it was by no means diverted from the afflicted monarch, for whose recovery the most ardent prayers were directed to Heaven. The hopes of the people were constantly kept alive by the reports of his majesty's council, which were published quarterly, of the state of his majesty's health: the first of which appeared on the 6th of April, and was as follows :

We the members of the council, here present, appointed to assist her majesty in the execution of the trust committed to her majesty by virtue of the statute passed in the 51st year of his majesty's reign, entitled, "An act to provide for the administration of the royal authority, and for the care of his majesty's royal person during the continuance of his majesty's illness, and for the resumption of the exercise of the royal authority by his majesty;" having called before us, and examined on oath, the physicians and other persons attendant on his majesty, and having ascertained the state of his majesty's health by such other ways and means as appear to us to be necessary for that purpose, do hereby declare the state of

his majesty's health, at the time of this our meeting, as follows :

That the indisposition with which his majesty was afflicted at the time of the passing of the said act, does still so far exist, that his majesty is not yet restored to such a state of health as to be capable of resuming the personal exercise of his royal authority.

That his majesty appears to have made material progress towards recovery since the passing of the act ; and that all his majesty's physicians continue to express their expectations of such recovery.

C. CANTUAR,	ELDON,
J. EBOR,	ELLENBOROUGH,
WINCHELSEA,	W. GRANT.
AYLESFORD,	

Thus did a loyal people anxiously look forward to the period when his majesty's recovery would be publicly announced. The official report, however, which appeared on the 6th of July, was by no means of that favourable nature which the people had reason to expect, and indeed it contains as gross a contradiction as can be met with in any official paper that was ever published. In the report of the 6th of April, it states that *all* the physicians expressed their expectations of his majesty's recovery. In the report of the 6th of July it is stated, "that his majesty's mental health is certainly improved since April the 6th;" and in the subsequent passage we read, that "some of his majesty's physicians do not entertain hopes of his majesty's recovery quite so confident as those which they had expressed on the 6th of April." In their report of the 6th of July, the public were informed that the mental health of his majesty was improved, and yet the physicians' hopes were not so confident of his recovery as when his malady was more virulent on the 6th of April. We know not how to reconcile this contradiction, and can only attribute it to that confusion which is purposely introduced into

official papers when the public are not to be made acquainted with the real state of the business.

We give the report of the 6th July in full :

Windsor, July 6.

WE the under-written, members of the council appointed to assist her majesty in the execution of the trusts committed to her majesty, by virtue of the statute, passed in the 51st year of his majesty's reign, entitled "An act to provide for the administration of the royal authority, and for the care of his majesty's royal person, during the continuance of his majesty's illness, and for the resumption of the exercise of the royal authority by his majesty," having duly met together, on the 6th day of July 1811, at the Queen's-Lodge, near to Windsor-Castle, and having called before us, and examined upon oath, the physicians and other persons attendant upon his majesty, and having ascertained the state of his majesty's health by all such other ways and means as appeared to us to be necessary for that purpose, do hereby declare and certify, that the state of his majesty's health, at the time of this our meeting, is not such as to enable his majesty to resume the personal exercise of his royal functions.

That his majesty's bodily health is but little disordered.

That, in consequence of an accession of mental disorder, subsequent to our report of the 6th April last, a change took place in the system of management which had been previously adopted for his majesty's cure. His majesty's health is represented to us by all the physicians as certainly improved since the 6th of April. We are unable, however, to ascertain what would be the effects of an immediate recurrence to any system of management, which should admit of as free an approach to his majesty's presence as was allowed in a former period of his majesty's indisposition.

Some of his majesty's physicians do not entertain hopes of his majesty's recovery quite so confident as those which they had expressed on the 6th of April. The persuasion of others of his majesty's physicians, that his majesty will completely recover, is not diminished ; and they all appear to agree, that there is a considerable probability of his majesty's final recovery ; and that neither his majesty's bodily health, nor his present symptoms, nor the effect which the disease has yet produced upon his

jesty's faculties, afford any reason for thinking that his majesty will not ultimately recover.

C. CANTUAR,	W. GRANT,
E. EBOR,	MONTROSE,
ELDON,	WINCHELSEA,
ELLENBOROUGH,	AYLESFORD.

The report, however, which appeared on the 6th of October, gave almost a final blow to the hopes of the public, for it is there stated, that all the physicians, with the exception of one, had given up their absolute expectations of recovery, though from the vigour of his majesty's constitution, and general bodily health, some of them did not expressly despair of ultimate convalescence.

We shall not enter into any further detail of the official reports, but in the examination of the physicians, previous to the report of July 8th, 1812, we find the following account given by Dr. Matthew Baillie, of the state of his majesty's mind: "The errors of his majesty's mind are at present as strongly impressed upon it as during any period of his illness; for a few weeks lately, his majesty has been able occasionally to relate anecdotes more distinctly than for two or three months previous to that period; within the last two or three days his majesty's mind has been entirely lost in error."

It is a task amounting almost to an impossibility, to follow correctly the different circumstances of his majesty's malady. The bulletins of the physicians were the only authentic records of his majesty's retirement from the concerns of the world. From these it will be seen, that though in the earlier stages of his malady, he was subject to paroxysms which excited the most alarming apprehensions, his life during the last six or seven years of his existence, was one of tranquillity, though of mental aberration. In the solitude of his apart-

ments, in Windsor-Castle, and in the still deeper solitude of his blindness,

Presented with a universal blank of Nature's works,

he was surrounded only by kind and faithful attendants, who administered every comfort to his situation, whilst they exercised that unvaried reserve upon all important subjects, which was necessary to preserve the repose of their afflicted monarch. If the late partner of his throne visited him in his affliction, and the mournful duty of those visits was never neglected, it was not to speak the language of affectionate kindness, but to gaze in silence upon his sorrows, and to see, that as far as the care and skill of man could relieve them, they were soothed and mitigated. In the hour of national foreboding, when the success of military ambition seemed almost complete, the stedfast heart of the patriot king was aroused not by his people's fears; in the glorious day of triumph, when every foe lay prostrate at the feet of England, and the struggles of twenty years were at length repaid, the pious king, whose prayer had ever been uplifted for his people's safety, joined not in the hymn of thanksgiving, and bowed not before that power from which alone he had looked for succour. In the periods of domestic happiness, or domestic misery, his mind was equally unconscious. The blooming heiress of the British crown received not his blessing on her union, nor did her untimely removal draw from his eye the most sacred tear that would have been shed for her loss. His spirit has fled without the consciousness that the beloved partner of his throne had gone before him to the house of all living; he was finally spared the pang which a father feels when his son in the vigour of youth and health precedes him to the grave.

But if his majesty were thus insensible to

subjects which were never mentioned to him, because they would have excited the most acute sympathies in his feeling mind, the habits of his former life ever retained their influence over him.

Those whose duties placed them around him, during this long night of his mind, now weep for a monarch, and a man, who always retained the strong features of the virtues of his ordinary life. He never lost the consciousness of that dignity with which he was invested; he never forgot to unite with it the kindest consideration for those by whom he was surrounded; he never departed from his regular habits of temperance in diet; and though his food was moderate, it was rather to assist nature during the want of exercise, than to obviate any indulgences of appetite. His late majesty always retained, till the infirmities of age began to weigh him down, the same taste for music which he had displayed during his active life. In his retirement he performed with skill upon the pianoforte, and he pleased himself with the imagination that his affectionate family were his auditors.

We cannot conceive any thing more pathetic than the venerable monarch playing from memory the sublime airs of his favourite Handel, and believing that his family were his auditors.

It is highly honourable to those persons in immediate attendance upon his majesty, that during the long period of his afflicting malady, no improper disclosures concerning his domestic habits were made by those who had the means of personal observation. An affectionate veneration for a beloved sovereign prevailed over all the temptations of curiosity, and no unauthorized eye ever invaded the privacy of his retirement. During the queen's life, she judged it necessary to draw a strict line as to the persons who were to be admitted into the

presence of the king, in order to guard against any unpleasant or imprudent communication. The most afflicting privation was that which prevented the whole of the royal family, with the exception of the prince regent, from approaching him; but her majesty in this as well as all the public domestic occurrences in which she was connected, acted from the purest motives of state prudence.

The duty of the physicians who attended his majesty was certainly of the most delicate nature, and although they disagreed upon the mode of treatment which ought to be adopted toward his majesty, and at the same time making every allowance for a little private pique which existed amongst them, the nation has every reason to be grateful for their services, although they were not crowned with ultimate success. In the present malady, Sir Henry Hallford, to use the language of the bar, was the *leading* physician; and in order to account for some discrepancies which crept into the reports of the physicians, the following account appeared in a particular publication, which may be designated an eulogy upon Sir Henry Hallford, for the sentiments are in direct variance with the opinions expressed by the physicians themselves in their respective reports.

"The medical attendance on the royal sufferer has generally been directed by the ministerial influence of the day. The authority of Lord Thurlow, in his first illness, committed him to the charge of Dr. Willis, whose system of coercion was carried on in his own way, while the other physicians were mere lookers-on. The severity of this half-medical character made a powerful impression on the royal mind; and the name, after his recovery, vibrated on his nerves with a harsh recollection, which he could at all times but ill disguise, when pro-

nounced before him. The character of the minister who recommended him, and that of the physician himself, seem to have been cast in the same stern mould. In the final attack, the removal of Dr. Willis, and the recollection of past severity, gave a new feature to the medical attendance. Sir Henry took a lead in the arrangements; and conducted himself with such delicacy, prudence, and good sense, as to gain equally the esteem of the queen's cabinet, as of the opposition at Carlton-house. As a mark of the regent's sentiments and favour, he was appointed one of his physicians in ordinary, and equally preferred in his attendance upon him, as he had been upon the sovereign*.

"The case of his majesty was one of that doubtful nature, on which no accurate judgment could be formed. For a long time, prudence required that the physicians should lean to the favourable side; and the hopes and fears of the nation were equally interested in their decision. The former history of the complaint, and the natural constitution of the royal sufferer, were circumstances in favour of amendment; while, on the contrary, the age of the patient, and his peculiar feelings and situation as a sovereign, unaccustomed to control, equally preponderated on the other side. So long as hopes could be cherished, the physicians were bound to hold out a favourable issue to the wishes of the nation, and not, by ill-timed anticipation, to throw a gloom over the thinking part of the state, till time had prepared them for the event. The business, therefore, under Sir Henry, was conducted with much prudence and judgment; and the examination of the physicians shewed much cordiality of opinion, and matured consi-

deration. The political arrangements that have since taken place have discovered the advantage of this temporising plan, which it was found essential to pursue; and the plain-dealing of another physician was even harmonized into this courtly line of behaviour at the time.

"The continuance of ministers in power may be considered as owing in part to this circumstance of behaviour of the physicians, which did not even at the last entirely banish the ray of hope, or preclude the idea that the sovereign might be brought forward. Sir Henry thus shewed himself not less adroit as a courtier than eminent as a physician; and now stands at the acmé of royal favour, as in public estimation."

Whilst our venerable monarch was thus suffering under the deepest affliction, the country was not inattentive in providing the necessary means for the support of his royal household, and on the 20th of January, 1812, the bill for the regulation of the household, and the administration of his majesty's personal property, was read a first time in the house of commons. It may be naturally expected, that in a discussion of this nature, many subjects would be introduced relative to the expenditure of the royal family, which, although they had no immediate bearing upon the merits of the bill, yet which were most fully and in some respects illiberally canvassed, from the mere spirit of opposition. The anti-ministerialists descanted largely upon the creation of a double court, as tending to throw an accession of parliamentary influence into the hands of ministers; but Mr. Perceval, in an able strain of humour, ridiculed the pretended alarm of the oppositionists on this head,

* A very different cause has been publicly assigned for the honour conferred by the regent upon Sir Henry. No doubt whatever exists of the abilities of the royal physician, but at the same time no doubt can be entertained that the recovery of his majesty from his former malady was owing to the skill of Dr. Willis.

for the double court was to consist of four lords of the bed-chamber, a groom of the stole, and all the pages; and certainly, said Mr. Perceval, the pages were not to be overlooked, when this awful accession of parliamentary influence was to be considered. The bill, however, was ultimately passed, by which 100,000*l.* was appropriated for a household for the king, and to the support of his dignity and personal comfort, together with 60,000*l.* the amount of the king's privy purse, and 10,000*l.* to the queen, to meet incidental expenses, making a total of 170,000*l.*

It may not be uninteresting at this period of our history, to take a rapid glance at the commercial and political state of Great Britain, in the year 1812, and we cannot perform that task better, than by quoting the words of Sir John J. W. Jarvis, in his *State of Britain*, and to which we are particularly induced, as we find in it so pointed and faithful a display of the great and good qualities of our late monarch, and of the blessings which we enjoyed under his rule:

"In the name of Britons, I shall say, we have a throne filled by a monarch whom we venerate and adore above all the kings that ever reigned over these realms; since the commencement of whose auspicious reign every thing great and good has flourished abundantly, and this country has been raised to the highest pitch of commercial, agricultural, naval, and military splendour; whilst the fine arts and sciences have been greatly encouraged, rendering altogether the people too rich and too luxurious. In short, within the period of our good king's reign, we perceive at one glance a high state of civilization, opulence, and munificence among the higher classes; comfort and cheerfulness among those of subordinate rank; splendid religious establishments filled by an exemplary clergy; seminaries for learning and religion celebrated throughout the earth; charitable institutions worthy of equal celebration; money below the legal rate of interest; commerce flourishing to an extent unknown to the former history of the world; manufactories highly improved in fabric, inge-

nity, and taste; immense capitals advantageously embarked or about to be employed in the structure of docks, roads, harbours, and canals; a public and private wealth amounting from this, in Great Britain alone, to no less than 2,500,000,000*l.*; a currency, including coin and paper (as a common instrument of traffic), of an immense amount, which before the Revolution (so called) and time of instituting the Bank, consisted of specie alone, and was not more than 18,500,000*l.*, and which, from his majesty's accession to the year 1772, was increased 29,000,000*l.*; and, aided by the Bank institution in 1693, the trade of the country has been highly benefited from the encouragements during the present reign; for though the specie, before it began to be drained out of the country, by the machinations of France, may be considered as having amounted to 40,000,000*l.*, yet it was not sufficient to represent, even the amount of the taxes, much less the foreign trade of 80,000,000*l.*; still less the home trade, say 120,000,000*l.*; less still the income from stock, 300,000,000*l.*; even the farming capital, 125,000,000*l.*; or plate, jewels, &c. 50,000,000*l.*; and far, indeed, below the value of cultivated land in Great Britain, which may be rated at 720,000,000*l.*

How then must not the **WEALTH** of this kingdom have been augmented during the present reign! and our gracious monarch has not only raised his home dominions to this high pitch of splendour and opulence, but he has, by his *unsubdued firmness and perseverance*, in the midst of the greatest difficulties, both at home and abroad, arising from *French INFLUENCE*, and *unruly passions*, preserved us from the *gripe of France*, and even afforded protection to *stranger-sufferers*; by means of his navy and army, the latter long under the guidance of his illustrious son, who has, by the most indefatigable care and exertion, brought it to the highest pitch of military perfection and discipline, which have, under our good king's auspices, been raised to a degree of greatness, that must astonish both friends and foes. So great, so gracious, and so pious a monarch, even traitors, democrats, and the factious must confess, certainly never reigned over these realms; and well has it redounded to the happiness and prosperity of his people, in producing the most abundant fruits. And must not those ministers have been wisely chosen, who have been, during this long reign, the instruments through whose incessant exertions so much advantage is derived to the state and the empire, even to this very hour? must

not their vigilance, as well as that of the monarch, have been great? what can more prove the wisdom and care of the monarch, than the selection of such ministers? during this monarch's reign, have not both the church and the state been most carefully upheld, and the latter guarded against the many attempts at assaillment, from time to time, and this in the most conciliating and gentle manner? then, what monarch ever carried practical religion to a higher pitch than our present king? in this there can be no deception—the act speaks for the performer. All those matters, however, are fit subjects for a far more able pen, and are perhaps much better understood and felt by an affectionate and sensible people, than any pen could describe them.

From this flattering and pleasing picture of what our monarch has achieved for his country, we return reluctantly to the afflicting state in which we find him in 1813.

The strength of his recollection remained unimpaired, but the aberration of his reason was never in any considerable degree diminished. In the earlier stages of his malady, an experiment had been made to recal to his recollection, and direct his attention to public affairs, but it was soon laid aside, as it was found to create that irritation which is the leading symptom of mental derangement. His majesty's recollection of past events was extremely exact, and the occasional sketches of persons and characters which formed great part of his soliloquies afforded the strongest proof of the activity of his mental powers, which were most strikingly exemplified in a particular instance when the conversation turned upon the merits of the earl of Sandwich, whom his majesty designated by the name of *Jemmy Twitcher*.

Another instance of the retention of his memory on the circumstance of the passing-bell tolling one morning at Windsor, and his majesty inquired who was dead. His attendants at first did not answer him, but on his repeating the question, they said, "Please your majesty,

Mrs. S—"Mrs. S—," rejoined the king, "she was a linen-draper, and lived at the corner of — street, (naming the street); aye, she was a good woman, and brought up her family in the fear of God—she is gone to Heaven—I hope I shall soon follow her."

The total blindness and increasing deafness of his majesty gave great facility to his medical and other attendants, in the performance of their duties. It was formerly his usual custom to dress and undress himself without any assistance; indeed he had a particular aversion to any of his domestics assisting him, and hence arises the circumstance of his beard having grown so long. It was always with the greatest reluctance that he permitted the hairdresser to perform his operations, and has frequently, in consequence, let his beard grow for several days, and sometimes weeks, until it became unpleasant to him, and then he submitted very unwillingly to the necessity of removing it. The representations, however, which have gone forth to the public respecting the length of his majesty's beard, are wholly founded in error, and the drawings which have been made of him in that state, have not the slightest claim either to accuracy or to fidelity.

His meals were extremely temperate and simple; he usually dined at one, and retired to bed at eight o'clock: one of the physicians in waiting always attended him on these occasions. The royal patient seemed never to forget that he was still a king, and this was strikingly observable in his demeanour towards his attendants, which exhibited the same mixture of dignity and affability which had always characterized his conduct to all around him. One of Merlin's chairs was at this time provided for him, with which he was so pleased, that he was constantly removed from one room to another in it.

His majesty at times had some lucid intervals, and the queen desired to be informed whenever it was the case. On one occasion, on entering the room, she found him singing a hymn, and accompanying it on the harpsichord. When he had finished it, he knelt down and prayed aloud for her majesty, then for his family, and then for the nation, concluding with a prayer for himself, that it might please God to avert his heavy calamity from him, but if not, to give him resignation to submit to it. He then burst into tears, and his reason again fled.

Thus passed the years of our sovereign's life, but their course was scarcely marked by him. Still at the sun-rise, though it rose not for him, he was at his orisons: still his family felt his tender care, and yielded him his usual solace. Half in Heaven, and separated from the taint of all earthly communication, he lived in the deep retirement of his palace; solitary—sequestered—silent—but not forgotten. The remembrance of him still ruled—his example was still profitable. The nation still heard and was edified by hearing that his grey hairs were not descending in sorrow to the grave; that his very aberrations were holy, and high, and happy; and that God, who had taken from him reason, had in exchange given him peace.

On the royal birth-day, in 1815, the statue of his majesty, which was voted by the corporation of London to be placed in their great council-chamber, was exhibited for the first time with all due civic ceremony: it was placed upon a pedestal twelve feet in height, and represents the king in his royal robes, holding the scroll of an address in his left hand; his right hand extended, as if returning an answer to an address.

The inscription on the pedestal merits insertion:

GEORGE THE THIRD;

Born and bred a Briton;

endeared to a brave, free, and loyal people,
by his public virtues;

by his pre-eminent example
of private worth in all the relations of domestic life;
by the uniform course of unaffected piety,
and entire submission to the will of heaven.

The wisdom and firmness
of his character and councils
enabled him so to apply the resources of his empire,
so to direct the native energies of his subjects,
that he maintained the dignity of his crown,
preserved inviolate the constitution in church and state,
and secured the commerce and prosperity
of his dominions,

during a long period of unexampled difficulty;
in which the deadly contagion of French principles,
and the domineering aggressions of French power,
had nearly dissolved the frame,
and destroyed the independence
of every other government and nation in Europe.

The lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons,
of the city of London,
have erected this statue,

in testimony
of their undeviating loyalty and grateful attachment
to the best of kings,
in the fifty-fifth year of his reign,
A.D. 1815.

BIRCH, Mayor.

A considerable exacerbation having taken place in his majesty's malady, it was found necessary to adopt a more coercive system of management. The queen was now the only person admitted to discourse with the king, with the exception of the medical gentlemen and his majesty's personal attendants. In the absence of Dr. John Willis, his brother, Dr. Robert Willis took his place. It was, however, evident, that the calling in of the Willis's was by no means agreeable to the other physicians; they had complained in very loud and distinct terms of the coercive measures which had been adopted towards his majesty on

a former occasion, and they saw with displeasure, that the same system was to be repeated, and, if possible, the coercion rather increased. The care of his majesty was in fact, almost entirely intrusted to the Willis's, the other medical gentlemen only coming in rotation in close attendance upon the king, as on ordinary occasions. The suite of rooms which his majesty and his attendants occupied, had the advantage of very pure and excellent air, and there was no positive prohibition issued to his majesty being allowed to walk on the terrace; but he declined it, as from the bad state of his eye-sight, he could not enjoy the beauty of the views. The lords and grooms of the king's bed-chamber, his equerries and other attendants, were occasionally in attendance at Windsor-Castle; but they were restricted to the number, as resolved upon by parliament, when the household of his majesty was established. Two king's messengers went from the secretary of state's office daily to Windsor, and returned to London, as they had been accustomed to do for a number of years past; the messenger who arrived at noon brought a daily account of the king's health to the prince regent, and the members of the queen's council. His majesty was never left, during the whole of his malady, without one of the royal family being in the castle, and a member of the queen's council, appointed under the regency act.

The following anecdote of his majesty at this period has been given to the public through the means of a contemporary publication, and we have no reason whatever to doubt the authenticity of it. That the imagination of his majesty, even in its wandering and unsettled state, might now and then dwell upon his approaching dissolution, is by no means improbable. But a more striking proof of the derangement of his mental faculties cannot be adduced, than

the speech he is said to have addressed to his attendants: "I must have a new suit of clothes, and I will have them black, in memory of George the Third."

How deeply must the attendants have felt this melancholy situation of their beloved monarch. It was a living death—but it was the will of an inscrutable Providence that he should suffer; not tortured indeed with those mental agonies which fled with the derangement of his reason, but affording an awful example of that omnipotence which subjects the crowned monarch and the lowly beggar alike, to the direct calamities that befall the children of men.

In the gloom and solitude of his castle, living in a world of his own, and peopled by beings of his own nation, he knew not the joy of his people which at this period manifested itself on the marriage of the princess Charlotte, and which gave the nation the flattering assurance of a legitimate succession of the house of Brunswick to the throne of these realms. It is well known that his majesty had selected the prince of Orange as the consort of the princess Charlotte—and in a political point of view, it was certainly the most advisable union that could be selected for her; but difficulties of an insuperable nature presented themselves towards this union, which did not exist at the time when his majesty had fixed upon the prince of Orange; and therefore, the reproach is of no avail, that the prince of Saxe Coburg Saalfeld, was chosen as the consort of the princess Charlotte, in direct opposition to what were well known to be the direct wishes of his majesty; whereas it is probable, that had heaven permitted him the use of his reason at the period of the marriage, no objections whatever would have been given to the illustrious individual, who with her own choice, and with the approbation of the nation, became her husband.

During the year 1817, his majesty (if any reliance can be placed upon the bulletins which were regularly and officially issued) enjoyed a comfortable state of health, although no beneficial change had taken place in his mental disorder. He rose as early as in former times; breakfasted at eight, dined at one, and when in a tranquil state, generally ordered the viands of which his dinner was to consist—but beyond this he was withdrawn from all eyes but those that watched his necessities; he was in silence and in darkness; “he partook not of the joys nor the affections of his kindred nor his people. To him there was neither sun, nor moon, nor kingdom, nor wife, nor children, nor subjects! The little world in which he dwelt was a solitude, peopled only by imagination; but the inhabitants were not those which haunt the guilty mind, even when reason is not overthrown. It was said that ministering angels were the companions of his thoughts, and in the loneliness of the circle by which he was cut off from rational intercourse either with this world or the next*.”

If we direct our view to the melancholy events which were now about to press upon the nation, and particularly in regard to the royal family, we might almost be inclined to call the situation of his majesty an enviable one. It is true he could break but few of his early ties in separating for ever from human society. He left indeed a large family behind him, but even if he had lived in the full enjoyment of his faculties to the day of his decease, he must have looked across the gulph before him for the greater number of his friends and personal acquaintance: of the peers of England and Ireland, at the commencement of his reign, five only were living at his decease; the earl, now marquis of Drogheda, the earl of Carlisle,

earl Fitzwilliam, viscount Netterville, and viscount Bulkeley, all of whom, with the exception of the marquis of Drogheda, were under age at the accession. How many have died first, who, were they now living, would have wept for his decease; and how much must the attachment of this world be weakened by the consideration that the greater part of those whom we valued are no longer in it. It is somewhat singular in our history that we should twice, within the short space of two years and a half, have had the mournful task of conveying to the same tomb, and at the same time, two members of the royal family—in both cases too, the parent and the child. In November 1817, the princess Charlotte of Wales and her infant were buried together in the royal vault at Windsor; in February 1820, prince Edward, duke of Kent, and his aged father. These are devastations in the house of Brunswick, and should teach the surviving members, even in their elevated stations, how little they really possess, when life itself, upon which all the rest depends, is their's on so short and precarious a tenure. We are, however, aware that in these reflections we are anticipating the course of history, and therefore return, though painfully, to the recital of one of the most melancholy events recorded in the annals of this country.

At the close of the year 1817, amongst the prospects, the fairest, the brightest, the most exhilarating to the nation, was the interesting situation of the presumptive heiress to the British throne. With her were connected the highest interests, as well as the highest hopes of the nation. She was the brightest ornament of the sphere in which she moved, a pattern to her own sex, and an object of universal admira-

* See the Preface to Huish's Memoirs of the Princess Charlotte, p. xi.

tion to the other.. In the endearing relations of a daughter and a wife she shone pre-eminent, and an admiring world hailed the approaching period when she was to shine forth in the still more tender one of mother. To her the nation looked as the parent of its future sovereign; and well indeed was the expectation founded, that, under the guidance and superintendence of such a mother, a being worthy of wielding the sceptre of this mighty empire would have flourished to maturity. Cradled as she was in sorrow, and nursed in the school of grief, she had, by her dignified conduct, in prudently abstaining from any interference in the great political questions of the day, and, more than all, by her private worth, her amiable qualities, and the unlimited exercise of those eminent virtues which constitute the Christian character, gained the confidence, the esteem, and the love of the whole nation. She was the pole-star of its hopes, the tenderest object of its solicitude. Her ripening years were regarded with that anxiety which is bestowed on the culture of a tender exotic, transplanted from a better clime; and in the full blow of her beauty, she charmed the gazer, and well repaid the care of those, who nurtured so sweet a flower. Though outwardly invested with the regalia of royalty, and placed in a sphere of life, in which, generally, the minor considerations of the world lose their influence, and the practice of all the tender charities becomes absorbed and lost in the outward forms of ceremony and etiquette, she, in the unsophisticated spirit of her native goodness, assumed the character of the private station, and descended from the sphere of the princess to become the benefactress of her people.

The nation was now on the tiptoe of expectation for the birth of an heir to the British throne, and early in the month of November,

the glad-tidings were circulated, that the accouchment of her royal highness was hourly approaching, and from the general state of her health, the most favourable result was to be expected. But, alas! the joy of the nation was doomed to be turned into the deepest sorrow, for the mother and the infant fled together. Every minute circumstance attending her decease has been already laid before the public, in the Memoirs previously alluded to; and we shall therefore content ourselves with merely inserting a description of her last moments, as given in that work, with a few reflections on an event which struck the whole nation with sorrow and dismay.

“About five minutes before her death, the princess said to her medical attendants, ‘Is there any danger?’ They replied, that they requested her royal highness to compose herself. The princess replied, with great composure, ‘I understand the meaning of that answer,’ and, it is stated, she added, that she had one request to make, and begged that it might be put in writing. It was, that she hoped the customary etiquette would at some future day be dispensed with; and that her husband, when his awful time should arrive, might be laid by her side.

“The utterance of this request seemed to have partially relieved her departing spirit—she appeared as if her interest in the concerns of this world were at an end—and a solemn, heart-rending silence followed. For some moments, the throbbings of the hearts of the agonized attendants might almost have been heard. The vital spark flashed for a moment brightly—but the power of articulation was gone. The dimness of death was creeping upon her sight—still she moved not her eyes from the face of her beloved Leopold, who stood in speechless agony over her. He hung

upon that countenance which had been his delight in health, in strength, and joy; and it now beamed consolation and support on the awful verge of a purer existence.

"The inevitable fiat had been pronounced; and the dread messenger of an Almighty's will stood ready to execute it. The hand was raised to deal the blow—but the angel of mercy steeped the fatal shaft in the balsam of resignation, and the spirit of religion in the dread hour supported the sufferer's heart.

"In her last agonies—in the awful moment when the scenes of this earth were to close upon her for ever—scenes in which she had known the height of terrestrial bliss;—the princess grasped the hand of him, who had ever been the object of that bliss—'twas not the warm grasp of life—'twas the convulsive one of death. Her head fell on her left breast, and breathing a gentle sigh—she expired!

"The fatal intelligence of the decease of the princess Charlotte came over the nation like the breath of a pestilence, blasting in its course all joy, and comfort, and happiness. The tie of affection between the nation and the house of Brunswick was the child to whom that unfortunate princess was to have given birth—before him all passions would have been sacrificed—the asperity of political rancour would have been softened, and the abettors of riot and rebellion, would have found but few to rally round their standard. A nation, which has arrived at a high pitch of fame and glory, under any particular and long-established form of government, looks with trembling on those events which bear the slightest relation to the erection of a new dynasty; every link which is lost in the chain of legitimate succession, becomes a national calamity; and, for this reason, the life of the infant would have been some alleviation for the loss of the mother. He would,

indeed, have been deprived of the tender care of an exemplary parent, whom he would only have known by the record of her virtues—but calamity is an excellent school for princes, and they have not made the worst sovereigns who have suffered the earliest or severest deprivations. He would have had a father too, of whom we do not know that we can speak more highly, than by saying that the English nation esteems him, and would have wished (as far as he is known, and beyond this it would be sycophancy to praise him,) to trace his resemblance in his son.

"Regarded as a private calamity, no event, in the wide range of those sorrows to which human nature is devoted, is so deeply calculated to bow down the heart with heaviness, and to impress upon the mind the absolute vanity of our frail existence. A young female, in the early bloom of life, and in the possession hitherto of uninterrupted health and high spirits, snatched from her family and her friends at that most interesting crisis, when, it might have been reasonably hoped, she was about to augment her own happiness, and to bestow a pledge that would guarantee, as it were, the permanence of the blessing upon herself and upon them, is surely, without contemplating any external adjunct, an affliction that transcends the ordinary miseries which flesh is heir to.

"In the bright regions of everlasting day, now lives our sainted princess, in the full enjoyment of the beatitude of heaven. Her part on earth was short, but that part she acted well; she has passed the dreaded bourn, and in angel purity has ascended to her Redeemer's throne, to receive from him the crown of immortality. On the bosom of her Maker, her head reposes—freed from mortal sufferings: and from her celestial sphere, she has viewed

the tears of an afflicted nation; of a dejected sire, and a disconsolate husband. To the latter, in the silent hours of their meditation, she has whispered consolation, and has instilled into their hearts the blessed hope of a re-union, when death shall have given up his sting, and the grave its victory.

“Peace be to thy spirit,—for it was a lovely one!—The tears of the mourner have fallen on thy grave; the lamentations of the orphan and the widow, who received from thy hand their daily support, have been poured over thy tomb; the criminal, saved by thee from an ignominious death on earth dares now to look above, for thou art there his intercessor with his offended Judge; the children, who by thy aid were taught to lisp their Maker’s name, bless thee in thy heaven;—and a mighty people will for ever hold thy memory sacred.—Peace be to thy spirit!”

The shock which the nation received from the decease of the princess Charlotte appeared to divert its attention for a time from all other objects; but the contemplative mind, taking a comprehensive view of events in their different relations and bearings on general or individual happiness, could not refrain directing its eye to the afflicted monarch, who, in his hermit state of melancholy solitude, heard not the requiem which was sung over the tomb of one he dearly loved, and with whom he was then perhaps, in imagination, holding the most affectionate intercourse. He heard not the solemn passing bell, nor the slow and measured step of the mourners: the sight of the tears of his afflicted people was spared him: his sun set as before, and his nightly visions were undisturbed by the memory of the dead.

It is a general observation of historians, that the occurrences of any time seem always to those who live in it, to be the greatest that

have ever taken place, as objects are magnified by proximity, and diminished by distance; and certainly the events which distinguished the latter years of George III., in reference to his own family carry with them a fund for the most serious reflection. Death seemed to have marked them for its own, for the eye was scarcely dry for the loss of one of the members of the family, than a tear was again called forth for the decease of another.

Her majesty had been long lingering under a painful disease, which was known to be the dropsy in all its varieties, accompanied with an unsoundness of the hypochondriac viscera, a circumstance which rendered her recovery morally impossible.

In consequence of the expected demise of the queen, a bill was introduced into parliament for amending the regency act, with respect to the custody of his majesty’s person, in 1818; which, after providing for the increase of the queen’s council, proceeded to enact, that in case parliament should be separated at the time of her majesty’s demise, a proclamation should then be issued for calling it together in sixty days; but if there should be no parliament, then the day of meeting to be regulated by the day named in the writ of summons, or within sixty days.

These proceedings in parliament prepared the public in some respect for an early intelligence of the queen’s death, nor was it long before it was announced. We shall not enter into an enlarged detail of her majesty’s illness, but merely confine ourselves to a few of the leading circumstances.

In the summer of 1818, her majesty went to Bath in the hopes of restoring her health, but she derived no benefit from it, as she was frequently attacked with spasms, which threatened her existence. The first attack of the disease

which continued so long with few intermissions, was on a journey to Windsor, when the convulsions were so severe, that it was deemed unsafe for the royal party to proceed further than Kew. From this, however, she gradually recovered, and hopes were entertained that it would be finally overcome. The next attack was at the duke and duchess of York's entertainment, given in June 1818: and her majesty from that period was unable to walk. The immediate cause of this attack is ascribed to the agitation arising in her majesty's mind, from the manner in which she was received in her transit through the city, on a visit to the lord-mayor, with a view to patronise the national schools of the metropolis. It appears that her majesty went to the mansion-house in what is termed half state; and although her visit was anticipated, no preparations were made for her reception on her entering the city—none of the officers of the lord-mayor were in readiness to escort her; and in consequence, Mr. Lee, the high-constable of Westminster, who preceded the royal carriage on horseback with his staff of office, contrary to all precedent and etiquette, was constrained to continue his attendance till her majesty alighted at the lord-mayor's private door. Even here there was none of that respectful attention, on the part of the lord-mayor's household, which the approach of such an illustrious visitor demanded. As her majesty passed through the Poultry, she was surrounded by a crowd of persons of the lowest rank, who were not alone guilty of direct acts of rudeness, by thrusting their faces close to the carriage window, but assailed her majesty with hisses and groans of the most terrific description. To prevent these indignities, there was not a city officer present. It is unnecessary to remark, when the weak state of her majesty's frame at that time is considered, that such a scene was

calculated to produce the most serious consequences. Her majesty was very much alarmed, and on quitting her carriage was observed to tremble exceedingly; and although she exerted the energies of her mind to overcome her fright, she was yet greatly affected. Whether this apparent want of respect arose from any private direction of her majesty or not, we are not aware; but to what happened in the morning is attributed the indisposition by which she was assailed in the evening. Her majesty, after a partial recovery from this attack, experienced a relapse on the 7th, and again on the 18th of July. At this time she resided at her palace at Buckingham-gate; the physicians, conceiving that a change of scene and air would produce some benefit to their royal patient, advised her removal to Kew. She was accordingly taken to Kew-palace in an easy carriage, accompanied by the princess Augusta and the duchess of Gloucester. Here she remained till the period of her death. Her majesty had expressed an ardent wish to be at Windsor. This was but natural, when her attachment for her afflicted consort is considered; and we are persuaded, that her principal motive for desiring to go thither, was her anxiety to spend the remainder of her days under the same roof with him.

To follow the various stages of her majesty's disorder, from its assuming a dangerous aspect to the termination of her existence—or to recapitulate all the bulletins which were published for the satisfaction of the country, would afford little of gratification. It is sufficient to say, that as the disease advanced in virulence, each interval of repose became shorter than the preceding one; each succeeding paroxysm more acute; each struggle more nearly mortal, till the fell hand of death put an end at once to her misery and to her life.

That her majesty was provided with the best medical assistance which England, the centre of human art and knowledge, could afford, must be a solid satisfaction to those who were personally attached to her, and to all her subjects, who sympathized with her. It was an advantage at the same time, which, with few exceptions, people of high rank never fail to possess. But there are other sweeter alleviations of human agony, which nature calls for, but which, nevertheless, afflicted greatness cannot always command—we allude to the kind and watchful attention of our children. In this respect her majesty was most fortunate, for it is impossible to do justice to the filial tenderness with which, throughout her indisposition, she was watched by every branch of her family within the reach of her palace.

Her majesty died on the 17th of November, 1818, and was buried at Windsor, consistently with the usual forms of court etiquette.

On the demise of the queen it was necessary that a new custos of the royal person should be appointed, and for obvious reasons, the duke of York was selected for that office. A considerable opposition was, however, made in parliament, to the continuance of the 10,000*l.* per annum, which had been granted to her late majesty, on the plea that it was indecorous in a son to accept of any remuneration for an act, which it was a part of his filial duty to perform; and especially as the appointment of the office of custos of his royal father's person did not subject him to any great extraordinary expense. The public voice was decidedly against the grant, but it was as much attended to as in all grants of a similar nature. It was, however, considered by some, that even if parliament, in its lavish expenditure of the public money,

did pass the grant, the duke of York, out of consideration of the heavy and insupportable burthens which were then pressing upon the people, would refuse the acceptance of the grant, and take upon himself the office of custos of his father's person without remuneration. In this expectation, however, the people were disappointed. Parliament passed the grant, it was accepted, and his royal highness entered upon the duties of his important office, with some portion of his popularity diminished.

At this period, we have seen the following statement of his majesty's health: "He was perfectly blind, and occupied a long suite of rooms, through which he was continually strolling. Several piano-fortes and harpsichords were placed at certain intervals, and the monarch frequently stopped at them, run over a few bars of Handel's oratorios, and proceeded on his walk. He dined chiefly on cold meats, and frequently ate standing. He had a silken dress, with a cap of the same colour, trimmed with fur, in the winter*; and sometimes he changed his dress, according as his fancy impelled him, to a blue robe de chambre, held round the body by a belt. In his walks he would often stop and address himself to a noble duke or lord, thus holding a discourse and furnishing his own answers."

His majesty still suffered his beard to grow two or three days or more, seldom, however, exceeding three days. His hair was perfectly white. He was quite cheerful in his conduct and conversation, ate very heartily, and enjoyed good bodily health. His majesty looked well and walked with a firm and sometimes quick step to and fro in the apartments allotted to him; but he was now insensible to all affairs of state, and also to the family arrangements

* See the Plate of his Majesty in his sixtieth year, given in these Memoirs.

which took place in consequence of the marriage of the four royal dukes, Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, and Cambridge.

From the official bulletins which were issued at this period, the public were apprized of the tranquillity in which his majesty passed his days, and the general good state of his health; but even that very tranquillity carried with it something of an affecting nature. He heard not the roll of the funeral carriages, which bore the corpse of his beloved partner to its tomb; he stood like the aged oak, shorn of its branches, whilst round him the lightnings of death scathed the objects whom he had nurtured and nourished in his youth; yet he heard not the storm which spread desolation around him—the world with all its affairs had vanished from his view—and half on earth, and half in heaven, his spirit longed to quit its clayey tenement, and join in heaven the objects of its love. We know not how we can better describe the situation of the afflicted monarch at this period than in the following lines:

Another year!—a year of solitude,
Of darkness, yet of peace, has past—and he,
The father of his people, marks it not;
Alike to him all seasons, and their change,
His eyes are rayless, and his heart is cold,
He wields a barren sceptre; yet his brow,
Of regal diadem displac'd, still wears
The crown of glory; his the hoary head
Found in the way of righteousness and truth.

O thou, our father—thou, our prince and friend—
How many a sight that would have griev'd thine eyes,
How many a pang that would have wrung thy heart,
Has God withheld, and thine affliction spar'd thee;
The Rose of England wither'd in its bud,
The voice of wailing was in every tent,
Yet thy day pass'd unruffled as before;
The partner of thy hopes, when hope was young,
She who had shar'd thy first, thy youthful love,
And ministered to every sorrow, she
Fell by long sickness, and a ling'ring death,
And thou hadst neither tear, nor sigh to give;

Yet thou wert not forgotten—dear thou wert
In happier moments; and oh! dearer far,
Now that the hand of God hath touched thee; still
Hallowed by all the memory of the past
Shall be thy name.—Sacred by lengthened years,
And venerable by sufferings, may'st thou reach,
In heaven's appointed time, thy last abode,
The paradise of God, where every tear
Is wip'd from every eye.—

In this isolated state, separated from his family and his subjects, little transpired of the actual state of his majesty, beyond the report of the official bulletins, and these even so late as the 3d of October, 1819, continued to assure the public, that his majesty was in good bodily health, but without any diminution of his disorder.

We cannot omit transcribing from a French paper an account of the last years of George III., many parts of which we know to be true, the others are exaggerated. The circumstance of his long floating beard, appears to have been a prevailing error, not only in this country, but with our continental neighbours; but with that exception, the following account carries with it a great degree of truth:

“That august old man was long deprived of sight, and wore a long floating beard. He wandered constantly through his apartments amidst the phantoms of his imagination, which represented to him all the beings that were dear to him. He spoke to them, and replied to what he thought he heard said. He also frequently remained for hours together in a state of complete depression, his head resting on both arms. He would then suddenly recover, and believe himself among celestial spirits; he would rush forward, and might have fallen with such force as to cause serious consequences, had not the precaution been taken of surrounding the walls of his apartments with cushions. Formerly he used to collect his servants, and

make them sit down in the room; then, fancying himself in his parliament, he used to speak with vehemence, and at last fall into a kind of delirium. When the king took his meals, which were served to him twice a-day, he imagined himself surrounded at his table by his family; and, as in deprivation of reason, he had preserved the taste of his youth for music, he made himself be led to his piano-forte, or ordered a violin to be brought to him, and executed from memory pieces of music with a precision which, considering the state of his mind, was surprising."

The first sign of decay in the excellent constitution of his majesty, appeared towards the close of the year 1819. He had been latterly greatly reduced in bodily strength, not so much from his advanced age, (for there are many men of less robust constitutions, who have attained a much more advanced age, without his majesty's infirmity) as from the peculiar circumstances of the last ten or eleven years of his majesty's life, which obliged him to forego, almost entirely, his former healthful habits, especially his early rising and exercise in the open air. It is true, that every thing which art could devise was adopted in the construction of the spacious suite of apartments which he occupied, in order to lighten his privation. The arrangements applicable to his personal convenience, were all of the most perfect kind; the spacious apartments in which he lived, were regulated to a uniform temperature, to guard against the risk of taking cold, by passing from one part to another; and in fact during nine years, the long interval his majesty remained in retirement at Windsor-Castle, under the guardianship of a council, he was the object of unremitting care and attention.

But no substitute can adequately replace the free gifts of heaven and nature, the consequence

of which was a premature debility of the nervous system, which rendered the afflicted monarch peculiarly susceptible even of the slightest atmospheric change. The intense cold of the winter 1819, affected him sensibly, and the northern aspect of his apartments tended very much to increase the effects of it. From whatever cause, however, it may have originated, his majesty was throughout the winter afflicted with repeated colds, and they at length subsided in a slight *diarrhea*. This complaint was removed previously to the issue of the last official bulletin of the council of the custodes, and it was thought that his majesty would continue in his usual bodily health. By the use of anodyne and astringent medicines, the progress of the malady was arrested, and all apprehensions with respect to it ceased.

At this period the following bulletin was issued:

Windsor-Castle, January 1st.

His majesty's disorder has undergone no sensible alteration. His majesty's bodily health has partaken of some of the infirmities of age, but has been generally good during the last month.

This official notice was very far from producing the impression of immediate danger, and compared with the reports that had previously obtained circulation, it tended rather to induce the belief of a reinstatement. It was not till several days had elapsed from the publication of the bulletin, that his majesty's symptoms became a source of peculiar anxiety and solicitude to his medical attendants; at that period his disorder returned with greater violence; and in despite of the utmost skill of his physicians, several of whom remained in constant attendance, continued from day to day to make visible inroads on the health and strength of the royal patient. During the early part of January, the symptoms of rapid decay became

alarming. The appetite of the royal sufferer almost completely failed, he continued much in bed, and it became difficult to preserve his body in sufficient warmth.

His majesty, in the early access of his second attack, rejected animal food. The most nourishing diet, in every form that could be devised to tempt his appetite, was prepared for him, but seemed to fail in its purpose of sustaining or recruiting exhausted nature. A few days before his death he became reduced almost to a skeleton. The general decay to which his constitution was now subjected showed itself in the usual symptoms. It was evident that his blood was becoming torpid and chilly; for though artificial means were used to raise the temperature of his apartments, yet he continued to manifest increasing suffering from cold. Among other distressing proofs of his debility and approaching dissolution, he lost his remaining teeth: his appetite also failed, which had been previously so hearty, that it had been usual to medicate his food in order to procure digestion and prevent any injury from the tendency to excessive indulgence. It was not, however, till within two days of his decease that he kept his bed entirely, though for several days previous he had not risen at his accustomed early hour.

Every hour now tended to confirm the fears of the physicians; frequent consultations were held, as to the change in the mode of treatment; but the malady of the royal patient appeared to baffle the combined skill of his medical attendants, and they were confirmed in the opinion, that the dissolution of the monarch was not far distant.

From the expiring couch of this amiable monarch, we are obliged to avert our view, in order to direct it to another quarter, where one of the most amiable members of the royal

family, in the prime of manhood, sunk in the arms of death, and created another blank in the royal house of Brunswick.

His royal highness the duke of Kent, for reasons of the most laudable nature, had retired to his cottage, situate at Sidmouth in Devonshire. Here he might be truly said to enjoy the *otium cum dignitate*, and with a few select friends, and in the bosom of his family, he lived abstracted from the pomp and splendour of royalty.

One morning his royal highness, in company with captain Conroy, took a long walk in the beautiful environs of Sidmouth, during which his boots were soaked through with the wet. On their return to Woolbrook-cottage, captain Conroy, finding himself wet in the feet, advised his royal highness to change his boots and stockings; but this he did not do till he dressed for dinner, being attracted by the smiles of his infant princess, with whom he sat for a considerable time in fond parental dalliance. Before night, however, he felt a sensation of cold and hoarseness, when Dr. Wilson prescribed for him a draught composed of calomel and Dr. James's powders. This his royal highness, in the usual confidence in his strength and dislike of medicine, did not take, saying, that he had no doubt but a night's rest would carry off every uneasy symptom. The event proved the contrary. In the morning the symptoms of fever were increased; and though his royal highness lost 120 ounces of blood from the arms and by cupping, he departed this life at ten o'clock on the 23d of January. His royal highness was sensible of his approaching death, and met it with pious resignation. He generously said, that he blamed himself for not yielding to the seasonable advice of Dr. Wilson in the first instance, by which the access of fever might have been checked. Every attention that skill

and affection could supply was rendered to him. Prince Leopold, accompanied by Dr. Stockmar, arrived at Woolbrook-cottage on the 22d, at two o'clock, and never left his royal brother to the last.

From the first account of his illness, those who were the best acquainted with his royal highness felt the most serious apprehension of the result, since the habitual abstinence of the illustrious duke gave him such strong and uninterrupted health, as to make him inattentive to the first access of the cold. Through life his royal highness abstained from all high diet. At the most sumptuous banquets he confined himself, like his majesty, to the most-simple food, and was equally temperate in wine. The consequence was, the uninterrupted enjoyment of robust health, which was further preserved by early rising and by daily exercise.

On the Saturday evening, previous to the termination of his royal highness's sufferings, a special messenger arrived at Sidmouth express, with a letter from his royal highness the prince regent. This was read to the royal invalid, about seven o'clock, and seemed to excite in his mind the most pleasing sensations. It breathed the strongest sentiments of brotherly affection, and expressed an intense anxiety as to the state of his health. A few hours afterwards, his royal highness was reduced almost to a state of insensibility, but in the few moments of self-possession that were allowed him, he desired that his most cordial regard might be returned to the prince regent, for the kind attention which he had paid him in the hour of affliction. On the arrival of major-general Moore at Carlton-house, on Monday, his melancholy intelligence was received by the prince regent with the most poignant feelings of anguish. He burst into a flood of tears, and was for some hours absorbed in grief.

We wish our limits would allow us to enter into a full exposition of the character of his royal highness, so deservingly worthy to be transmitted to posterity as a pattern of what a British prince ought to be. The duke of Kent opened for himself an untried path to renown. In a stronger sense than of old, his path to the temple of honour lay through the temple of virtue—his nature was benevolent, his ambition was charity. The man whose mind is filled with things of this order, has no room for the image of worldly distinction; but it follows him like a shadow, and like his shadow, if in his bright and ascending path, it is the last thing on which he turns his eyes, its strength is the creation of the brightness before him. The great public establishments in which the duke of Kent took a leading part, convey an impression of the diligence, vigour, and comprehensiveness of his zeal in the cause of society.

The simple list of these charities gives a grand impression of the zeal that could take an interest in them all. The duke of Kent was systematically cautious in connecting himself with a new institution. He had no avidity for public employment—no love for the diurnal indulgences of tavern celebration—no passion for popularity, and no means for purchasing a benevolent reputation. He was a retired man, an abstemious and a domestic man; ever adverse to that bloated pursuit of vulgar partizanship, which naturally grows on the incautious pursuers of rabble admiration. This list contains every climate of the earth, and every malady of the frame, and every obstruction of the mind of man. The duke of Kent's presidency was not bounded by the dinner-table; he was the actual director of the faculties of each in its turn. None but the laborious can estimate the labour of his diversified occupations. They will see him one day urging the

progress of Christianity in America, and sending knowledge through the wilderness to the borders of the ocean; on the next, turning to the sun-rise, and giving the right hand of fellowship to the Asiatic and the African, the stranger and the slave; and then casting his eye down on the miseries that gathered round his feet in the dens and poverty of the metropolis. We will not say, that he did all this thoroughly, for to achieve it would be beyond human powers. But a task like this, gone through in pure charity, would be amongst the noblest triumphs of human nature. Nothing of our race could make a nearer approach to that loftier nature to which we trust we are yet to be summoned. It has the intellect, the uncircumscribed view, the uncontaminated aspiration, of a benevolent angel. When the departed prince fell short of this eminence, we believe that his intentions were sacred; and with such a will acting within, his progress on earth must have been honoured, and his hope in a higher state secure.

But our melancholy task is not yet at a close; from the corpse of this estimable prince, we return to his afflicted sire, who, in his abstraction from the world, was spared the melancholy grief of knowing that death had lopped away another branch of his family; but the parent stem was doomed soon to fall, and one common grave receive them both.

The bowel complaint with which his majesty had been attacked in the month of December, had left him much debilitated, but from that time no bodily malady existed until about the 25th of January, when the renewal of the bowel complaint shewed that the bodily functions had lost their power, and announced a probability that the king's dissolution could not be very far distant.

To the inhabitants of Windsor, who had op-

portunities of observing the increased vigilance that pervaded all the movements about the castle, the suspicion soon infused itself, that an unfavourable change had taken place in the health of his majesty. The lords in waiting, who were lord St. Helens and lord Henley, were noticed to remain longer at their posts, and to quit their charge for a shorter period than usual.

On the night of Friday, the 28th, the symptoms became so alarming, that sir Henry Halford came express to town very early on Saturday morning, and had an immediate audience of the duke of York. The consequence was, that his royal highness's carriage was immediately ordered, and without a moment's delay, he set forward with post-horses for Windsor-castle. His royal highness appeared agitated as he got into the coach; and there was an air of mystery and hurry in the whole affair, which gave but too much reason to anticipate the distressing nature of sir Henry Halford's communication. At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the medical attendants, and the lords in waiting, felt assured that the last hour of the venerable sufferer was approaching, and that the day must terminate his mortal career. As the evening advanced, his majesty became gradually weaker and weaker, but apparently without the slightest pain, till nature was quite exhausted; and at 35 minutes past eight o'clock, he breathed his last without even a struggle. To his majesty, however, that moment was not awful. As unconscious of approaching dissolution as if he were sinking only into a gentle and quiet slumber, death had no terrors for him. His majesty was not heard to speak a word for two hours before his dissolution. The last words he uttered consisted of a short question upon a subject itself of no importance. He then lay perfectly quiet and

still not a groan escaped him, and not the least indication of returning reason—not a ray of mental sanity broke through the last moments of his life.

Though no one could have wished, that that life should have been prolonged, which was not cheered by one ray of reason, which was passed in the most helpless solitude, yet when the event happened, it produced a universal sickness and sorrowing of the heart. It was as if we had lost a father—he *was* the father of his people, and though he had been long dead to himself, he was still not dead to us. Though all intercourse had been cut off between us—though we no longer saw him among us—though the communications we received relative to him were in the nature almost of communications from the tomb—yet still he lived—the form, the person of the venerable monarch remained—he was still the object of our solicitude and care—his aged form still reclined in the arms—his head was still pillowed by the hearts and bosoms of his people. All this hath passed away—he is gone to receive the reward of his virtues; and in this our grief, let it be some consolation to know that his last moments, the last trying struggle of our poor, feeble nature, passed gently over his venerable head.

At the moment of his dissolution, there were present besides the usual attendants, his royal highness the duke of York, lord Henley, lord Winchelsea, all the physicians, and general Taylor. In the palace were the duchess of Gloucester, the princesses Augusta and Sophia.

The princesses were unremitting in their attention, and immediately came to condole with their royal brother upon their distressing loss. They remained in the neighbourhood of Windsor, but the etiquette observable on these occasions, that none of the royal family shall sleep under the roof that contains a corpse of a

branch of that family, prevented them from remaining at the castle.

Immediately after the decease, the duke of York retired and despatched general Cartwright with the mournful intelligence to the prince regent. He reached Carlton-house at twenty-five minutes after eleven. His royal highness had not retired to rest, and in a few moments was put in possession of the event, which, although not altogether unexpected, from the communications which he had received during the day, was, nevertheless, a severe additional pang to that which he had so recently sustained from the death of his royal brother. His royal highness seemed to be almost paralyzed by the contents of the duke of York's letter, which, although short, he could scarce read to the conclusion. After a short interval devoted to the first burst of filial anguish, he in some measure recovered his self-possession, and, having conferred with general Cartwright, he sent him back with a letter of condolence to his no less afflicted brother at Windsor. An officer of his royal highness's household was then despatched to the lord-chancellor, at his residence in Hamilton-place, to acquaint him of the death of his old and venerable sovereign. Messengers were likewise sent off to the rest of his majesty's ministers, who were in or near town and to the several branches of the royal family, who had not yet been apprised of the melancholy occurrence.

We have now only left to us to record the afflicting and solemn ceremonies that closed the presence of our late venerable monarch upon earth, as the best public homage to the memory of a blameless and patriotic sovereign.

The first part of the honours paid to the royal remains, consisted of their being laid publicly in state, in the royal apartments of Windsor chapel.

The account of this ceremony is contained in the following letter, dated Windsor, Tuesday morning.

"The influx of strangers increases rapidly. The general appearance of the inhabitants is that of regret and sadness. This may easily be understood by those who never were here, when the circumstances are considered. In the metropolis our late sovereign was personally well known, from his presence at public places and on occasions of state. But his private habits were too secluded from the popular gaze to be noticed among so vast a population, occupied mostly with their respective callings. The mildness, yet firmness of his character, the domestic and princely virtues which adorned him, and the universal opinion of his worth and dignity, were known and appreciated throughout his dominions; but the just attachment borne to him by his subjects, was not founded on those ocular and daily means of observation which were enjoyed by the inhabitants of this place, whose commanding heights have indeed been distinguished since the days of the Norman conquest, as a frequent and favourite residence of British sovereigns. Our ancestors were honoured with the presence of the Henry's, and Edwards, and Richards; and still more by that of Elizabeth, whose glorious name still imparts its interest to her gallery and her public walks. But it was George III. who fixed Windsor as the chief abode of royalty. Here for more than sixty years, he passed the far greater portion of his days in the bosom of his constantly increasing family. Here, withdrawing from the parade of the court, the anxieties of politics, and the bustle of public business, he found, from time to time, his refuge and his solace in his private chamber, at his own fireside, or in the varied recreations of the field and the farm. He had dwelt here so long, that he had out-

lived generations of his surrounding subjects. The children of the inhabitants speak of what their grandsires told them of the early habits and conduct of George III. He had acquired a venerated kind of fraternity (so to speak) in this vicinage, independent of his kingly character. Long as his sad malady hid him from their sight, his decease has called up all the recollections of previous days in their sorrowing townsfolk. They converse together on what they have seen; every street or walk reminds them of some pleasing circumstance, some trait of grateful amenity, some amiable and interesting peculiarity. His death has almost the effect of a sudden event on many when they recognize the great blank it makes in their interests and their happiness. While they revive the warmth of their attachment by the varied recitals of his domestic history, they look at the terraced castle of his royal abode, with its "majestic keep and its kindred and coeval towers," as the vast tomb of their local blessings. These feelings certainly are not separated from self-interest; for it was the edifying sight of his majesty's Sabbath-morning devotions, and his evening walks on the terrace with his family, that brought for many years such numbers of visitors.

"With mingled feelings of genuine respect and unavailing grief, with recollections of departed excellence, blended with that sense of self-abasement which the close of earthly greatness inspires, we this morning witness the last almost of the sad ceremonial tributes which can be paid to the ashes of the monarch, whose spirit has for ever shaken off the bonds of mortal life. What additional impression can the inscribed coffin, the sable pall, the escutcheons of heraldry, amid the wan lights which render darkness visible, convey of that inevitable destiny, which seems to cause the chambers of mourn-

ing to revive, and to associate the slumbering echoes of his well-known voice, with those of the deep plaints of the afflicted beholders?"

We have now to describe the ceremonial of lying in state, which spectators were admitted to see from ten in the morning till four in the afternoon. Numbers assembled early, at Queen Elizabeth's-gate, leading to the Upper Castle-yard, on the north side of which were the state apartments, wherein the royal corpse lay. The crowd increased from some unforeseen delay in the arrangements, so that there was no admission till eleven, when the gates were opened. An unpleasant confusion naturally ensued for awhile. A guard of honour was drawn up on the lawn in the Upper Castle-yard. But the police-officers in attendance directed the public to take a diagonal path from the outer gate to that in the north-east angle, which leads to the kitchen and buttery offices. At this gate a guard was placed, who admitted a few at a time, to prevent confusion. They were assisted by knight-marshals' men in black scarves, &c. The company, assembled by a narrow old spiral staircase, leading to an old apartment opening into St. George's-hall, through which spectators passed into the great guard-chamber facing the terrace, by a passage enclosed by a rail covered with black, and were directed by some of the life-guards. Thence they proceeded on the left through the audience-chamber into the presence-chamber. These apartments, and the drawing-room, were lined, cieling and walls, with dark purple cloth, partly disposed in folds, or festooned. The audience-chamber was lighted with twenty double branches on silvered escutcheons; the floor was partly railed off, covered with black, within which was a party of the yeomen in deep mourning.

The presence-chamber was lighted by twenty
65—66.

silver sconces, each containing two wax lights. On the left a number of the yeomen of the guard dressed in deep mourning, their halberts hung with black crape, were drawn up in a line. The next room, the audience-chamber, which was that in which the remains of our venerable sovereign were placed. Here a mournful splendour was thrown over the scene by a profusion of wax lights displayed in rows on each side, and at the end of the room. A temporary throne was erected, richly hung with black cloth, under which the coffin was placed, on a platform. Captain Cipriani attended, in close waiting. The throne, steps, and footstool, under the organ gallery, where the picture of Handel is placed, were covered with black.

At the head of the coffin sat lord Graves (one of the lords-in-waiting), as chief-mourner; he was supported by sir George Campbell and colonel Wotley. At the end of two hours, lord Graves was relieved by lord Delawar, and the two supporters by colonel King and the honourable Cavendish Bradshaw.

At the foot of the coffin were placed two heralds, Francis Martin, esq., Windsor; Joseph Hawker, esq., Richmond. These gentlemen were attired in their official costume, and were likewise relieved occasionally by two other heralds, Edmund Lodge, esq., Lancaster; George Martin Leake, esq., Chester. In other parts of the chamber, and within the railing by which the royal coffin was separated from the public, were four of the late king's gentlemen-ushers, four pages, two grooms of the bed-chamber, (Messrs. Chambers and Seymour), together with ten gentlemen-pensioners, all clad in deep mourning, and wearing silk scarves.

In the meantime, every preparation had been made for the funeral, of which the following is an authentic statement:

Wednesday, the day set apart for rendering

the last honours to departed majesty, was marked by a great influx of company into Windsor, before full, almost to an overflow.

The morning was ushered in by the tolling of bells, and the firing of guns in the Long Walk, at intervals of about five minutes, which commenced at sunrise, and was continued through the day. The shops in Windsor were all closed, business was suspended, and solemn decorum was the order of the day. The carriages that arrived in the course of the morning were numerous; and many persons came on foot from places so distant, that in all ordinary cases the fatigue of such a march would be considered intolerable.

The lords-in-waiting, the earl of Delawar and lord Graves, continued to sit by the remains of their departed sovereign all night, each relieving the other in the mournful duty at the end of every two hours. At a quarter before ten o'clock in the morning, the large candles by the side of the coffin, which had been burning all night were removed, and fresh ones supplied. The smaller candles, which illuminated the apartment, were replaced. The state attendants of the corpse then resumed their places, and captain Cipriani, the exon, in attendance, ordered and superintended all the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of the public. It was expected that the duke of York, who, accompanied by colonel Stevenson, had visited the drawing-room, would pass through the state apartments before the doors were opened, and those admitted by special favour before the rooms were opened, were in consequence formed in two lines in the king's guard-chamber, so as to leave a passage for his royal highness to pass. After waiting for some minutes, it was announced by Mr. Mash, that the royal duke would not then visit the audience chamber: and captain Cipriani having an-

nounced that all was ready within, and the gentlemen pensioners having taken their several stations as on the preceding day, the doors were ordered to be opened. The workmen employed in the castle were among the first to gain admittance, after the visitors privately introduced had passed through the apartments. Some of these were in mourning, but the greater number were in their working dresses, and the meanest attire; the display of aprons, &c. did not operate to exclude any of them from taking a last sad view of the funeral honours of their good old king.

The moment the gate opposite the Queen's Lodge and Queen Elizabeth's-gate were thrown open, an immense crowd rushed in, and immediately directed their steps across the lawn in the upper Court-yard, towards Egerton's-gate. Here the pressure became very great, and the military were more than once obliged to clear the gate-way with the stocks of their muskets, to keep the avenue open at all, and to prevent accidents.

The solemn scene in the king's guard, presence, and audience-chambers, differed in no respect from the imposing spectacle which has been previously described. The same lords were in waiting (the earl of Delawar and lord Graves) attended by the same supporters as on the preceding day. They were relieved every two hours. Colonel Dance was silverstick in waiting.

Originally, it had been intended to construct a platform across the lawn from the outer gate, opposite the Queen's Lodge, to that entrance called Egerton's-gate. This was intended to be covered in, and it was proposed that those who were to follow in the procession should set down at the outer gate, and proceed on foot to that by which the public have been admitted to see the lying-in-state. Afterwards, a notice

was given by the mayor of Windsor, directing the carriages to proceed through the first gate, set down at Egerton's-gate, and return across the green, and again pass through the former. This arrangement was deemed objectionable. It was feared that the outer gate would not afford sufficient room for carriages going and coming to pass each other without great risk of serious accident, and it was proposed again to revert to the first arrangement, dispensing with the platform and covered way.

Early in the forenoon workmen were employed in fixing strong posts across the upper courtyard, on each side of the way, by which it was proposed that those who were to fall into the procession were to pass to and from the outer gate, and Egerton's-gate. Five were placed on each side.

Shortly after the public had been admitted to the rooms, the Coldstream guards were allowed to see their late monarch lying in state. They were marched through Egerton's-gate, by the way that was open to the public, and thence proceeded, with the least possible derangement of their ranks, through the suite of apartments appropriated to the solemn exhibition.

The royal standard was hoisted on the round tower half-staff high.

The utmost activity prevailed throughout the forenoon, in and about every part of the castle. A number of additional lights were ordered by the duke of York, to be put up in the choir of St. George's-chapel. To fix these, and to complete the other preparations by the appointed time, it was necessary for the workmen to continue their labours without intermission through the night.

Besides the soldiers of the Coldstream regiment, most of the military in the neighbourhood (wearing their side-arms), were permitted

to view the lying in state. The great bell in the belfry of the castle, and the bells of Windsor church and Eton chapel, continued tolling, at intervals through the day. In the course of the morning, the chapel was privately inspected by the earl of Winchelsea and other persons of distinction. Till Tuesday, it was not known that the Eton scholars were to be admitted into the body of the chapel. More tickets were given away than would otherwise have been issued, and, in consequence, the bearers of them found it impossible to obtain the expected accommodation. The anxiety to obtain tickets, in the course of the day, became extreme, and fifty guineas were stated to have been offered, in more instances than one, for admission to the chapel. The organ-loft, which is capable of containing ninety-four individuals, was appropriated to persons of the first distinction. The small erections which we have before noticed on each side the altar, were prepared for the reception of the foreign ministers who might attend. The stalls, on the right and left of the choir were reserved for the peers and great officers of state, to whom they are considered to belong.

A sermon was preached in the morning, at Windsor church, by the Rev. Mr. Graham. The mayor and other members of the corporation, attended in their scarlet gowns, and the tribute rendered to the virtues of our departed monarch was listened to with the deepest attention, mingled with the most affectionate regrets, for the irreparable loss which Windsor, in common with the whole empire, had sustained from his death. The majority of the congregation were in deep mourning, and the pulpit and organ were as usual on such melancholy occasions hung with black. A royal escutcheon appeared in front of the pulpit.

As the day advanced, the crowd that pressed

for admission at Egerton's-gate continued to increase. Many, appalled at the sight of the formidable mass which opposed their progress, gave up all idea of getting in, and at once retired. Of those who persevered, some were seriously injured by the pressure of the crowd, and several were carried out in a state of insensibility.

The gate of the castle was closed at three o'clock.

After the public were excluded from the state apartments, considerable time elapsed before the castle-yards were cleared.

At four o'clock the duke of Wellington arrived at the Castle-inn. Mr. W. Pole and Mr. Arbuthnot accompanied his grace, and they were rapidly followed by the other noble and distinguished persons who were to assist at the solemnity.

The Eton boys, at dusk, were formed under the directions of Dr. Keats and the masters of the school, and walked through the town to the hundred steps, the door leading to which was opened for them by command of his majesty; and, ascending them, they proceeded through the cloisters to the north aisle.

At six o'clock the gate of the lower courtyard was opened; to this none could be admitted but by tickets. A small party of horse-guards were drawn up in front of the gateway, and between their ranks the public were admitted, not more than six or eight being suffered to pass at once. The platform, covered with black, was lined with double rows of foot-guards, and enclosed by horse-guards. From sunset minute guns were fired. The flashes of these continued through the evening to be seen over the tops of the houses for several seconds before their reports were heard, and contributed to the mournful grandeur of the spectacle.

At seven o'clock the duke of York took his seat at the head of the coffin, and continued in close attendance by the remains of his departed father and sovereign, till the hour arrived at which the procession was to move. At about half-past eight, those who were to follow, having previously passed from the outer gate to the Egerton-gate, were formed in the presence, king's guard-chamber, and St. George's-hall. It wanted about a quarter to nine, when Mr. Banting and his assistants conveyed the coffin from the audience-chamber, through the king's drawing-room, down the grand staircase to the platform. At the same time the trumpeters of the royal household played the Dead March in Saul. The sound of the muffled drums was then heard, and these were responded to by drums and trumpets stationed at a remote part of the platform. The first then resumed the solemn strain, and the procession slowly advanced through the ranks of foot-guards, which lined the way from the palace-gate to the entrance of the chapel, resting on their arms reversed. Every fourth man bore a torch, which, however, served but to make the congenial gloom of the night more perceptible. The effect of the whole scene was imposing in the highest degree, and immense as were the multitudes assembled to witness it, the vast assembly did not for a moment deviate from the decorum proper to be observed on such an occasion, but surveyed the advance of the funeral train in profound silence.

On reaching the platform, the coffin was placed on the car or bier, first used at the funeral of the queen. It passed at a slow pace, frequently interrupted by pauses of considerable length, in the order previously arranged.

At a quarter past nine o'clock, the bier arrived at the porch of St. George's chapel.

The body was received by the dean and prebendaries, attended by the united choirs of the chapel royal St. James's, and St. George's chapel, preceding Blanc Coursier king at Arms, who carried the crown of Hanover. The procession then advanced; the choristers, among whom were Messrs. W. Knyvett, Vaughan, J. B. Sale, and Master Marshall, leading the way, singing Croft's funeral service, "I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord." This solemn strain continued till the whole of the royal dukes, the nobility, and other persons of distinction forming the procession were seated. Mr. Knyvett presided at the organ.

The duke of York, as chief mourner, took his seat at the head of the coffin. The marquis of Hertford (the lord chamberlain) sat at the foot. The princes of the blood found their places near the chief mourner, and the supporters of the canopy and the pall bearers seated themselves on each side of their lifeless sovereign. The chief mourner, though he advanced with a firm and dignified step, was evidently much affected by the awful business of the night, and deeply afflicted by the severe inflictions of Providence which his august family had within so brief a space been destined to deplore. The other members of the royal family proved, by their deportment and unaffected solemnity, that they largely participated in the grief of their illustrious relative.

The solemn splendour of the last interesting spectacle we want language to describe.

The stalls on each side of the choir lined with black cloth—the floor covered in the same way—the splendid canopy of mazarine, or royal blue velvet, raised over the open sepulchre, sustained by the frame work, which we have noticed before, surmounted by a royal crown, and adorned with escutcheons and all that the pomp of heraldry could supply, furnished a

picture of surpassing magnificence. Had this been all, the effect would have been most striking; but when, in addition to this, the superb blaze thrown from three new large chandeliers, and the French candlesticks fixed all around the walls of the sacred edifice, in addition to what were formerly used on funeral occasions, were seen throwing their rays on the cold remains of a monarch about to descend into the yawning grave; it will easily be conceived that nothing was wanted to give the mournful parting scene all possible grandeur, that nothing could be added to heighten the effect of

The last words that dust to dust conveyed.

The service was read by the dean of Windsor, in his usual impressive manner. An awful thrilling sensation ran through the whole assembly, when the moment arrived in which the remains of his late majesty were to be lowered into the vault destined to receive them, and when the coffin was seen slowly descending, every eye, though dim with sorrow, was strained to catch a last glimpse of this most interesting part of the awful solemnity.

It was at a quarter after ten that all that was mortal of the revered George III. sunk to its last resting place. In the course of the ceremony, Kent's "Hear my prayer" was performed, and immediately before the last collect and the blessing, Handel's funeral anthem, composed on the occasion of the death of queen Caroline, was sung. The service terminated with the blessing, and the chief-mourner, and the other royal and noble personages left the choir, a solemn voluntary being performed on the organ as they retired. The grave remained open for some time, and many who were previously excluded from the chapel, eagerly embraced this last opportunity of gazing on the coffin of their late sovereign, on which the

crowns of England and Hanover rested. The soldiers were dismissed, and the whole business concluded shortly after midnight.

Restricted to a brief and rapid detail of the most prominent objects pressed on the attention in the course of this important day, it has not been possible for us to do justice to the feelings of sorrow and of fond affectionate regret which marked every part of the progress of this interesting scene. Among all classes it was felt to be a national event of such high importance, that every one was anxious to be able to tell that he had seen the last honours rendered to the good old king, and all, while mourning that one so justly entitled to a nation's love could not avoid "the inevitable hour," felt consoled with the reflection that it was their's to boast, now when

Old Time has led him to his end,

that

Goodness and he fill up one monument.

It was a most peculiar trait in the character of George III., that unlike the majority of monarchs, he prepared the cell of mortality for himself. Surrounded by pomp and grandeur, and wrapt in the visions of sublunary power, they cautiously and fearfully avert their eyes from the grave which is alike the last resting-place of the monarch and the peasant. Very different, however, was the conduct of George III.—his life on earth had been one of virtue and religion, and the sight of his grave was, therefore, bereft of terror. When standing before it, he felt how evanescent is all sublunary grandeur, whilst every object around him attested the frailty of the life that now is, and that he, although the most powerful monarch upon earth, was still subject to the inexorable conditions of human existence.

The royal sepulchre at Westminster, had

generally been appropriated for the reception of the deceased members of the royal family, but on account of its contracted size, and the incapability of its containing the whole of the immediate offspring of George III., he resolved upon the erection, or more properly speaking, the restoration of the royal mausoleum, in which his remains have now been deposited.

This extensive and admirably-constructed receptacle for our illustrious dead, was chiefly from the design, and, in no small degree, under the personal superintendence, of our late beloved, venerable, and afflicted sovereign himself. It is constructed in the *souterrain* of a freestone building, attached to the east end of St. George's chapel, in Windsor-castle (somewhat in a similar way with the annexion of Henry the Seventh's chapel to the east end of Westminster-abbey), long known by the familiar appellation of "Wolsey's tomb-house." In point of fact, the building was originally commenced by the prince above mentioned, who intended it as a burying-place for himself and his successors; but afterwards, altering his purpose, he built the more noble structure at Westminster; and this remained neglected until Cardinal Wolsey obtained a grant of it from Henry VIII., and, with a profusion of expense (for the vanity and ambition of this arch-favourite were unbounded), began therein a sumptuous monument for himself, whence the building obtained the name of "Wolsey's tomb-house." This monument was so magnificently constructed, that it far exceeded that of Henry VII., in his chapel at Westminster-abbey; and at the time of the Cardinal's disgrace, the tomb was so far executed, that Benedetto, a celebrated statuary of Florence, received 4,250 ducats for what he had already done, and 380*l.* 18*s.* was paid for gilding only half of this monument. The cardinal, dying shortly after his disgrace, was buried in the

cathedral at York, and the monument remained unfinished. In 1646, the statues and figures, of gilt copper, of exquisite workmanship, were sold. James II. converted this building into a popish chapel, and mass was publicly performed here. The ceiling was painted by Verrio, and the walls were finely ornamented and painted. The whole, however, was much neglected since the reign of James II., and being no appendage of the collegiate church, long waited the royal favour to rescue it from a state of decay. This, however, has been amply extended, by the munificence and solid taste of our late gracious sovereign; who, during the construction of the royal sepulchre, is said, pointing to one of the superior niches, to have observed, "Here I shall lie, and I believe I shall not be one of the worst of those who shall lie in this vault."

On the demise of George III., the royal mausoleum, owing to the ravages which death had occasioned in his illustrious family, presented to the spectator the following arrangement of the coffins of the deceased members of the house of Brunswick:

1. George III.	died 1820, aged 82.	
2. Queen Charlotte,	1818,	75.
3. Princess Amelia,	1810,	27.
4. Princess Charlotte and Infant,	1817,	22.
5. Duke of Kent,	1820,	53.
6. Duchess of Brunswick,	1813,	73.
7. Prince Alfred,	1782,	2.
8. Prince Octavius,	1783,	4.

Having already related the interesting circumstances which took place at Windsor, relative to the death and funeral of our late revered monarch, we will now return to the metropolis, and describe it as it appeared on the day of the interment.

The day of his majesty's funeral was spent

as became affectionate subjects and real christians. But once before did the great metropolis present a spectacle of gloom and solemnity similar to that which it displayed on the day of the funeral of George III.; for but once before were the hearts of the people wounded in their tenderest affections. The pledge of sensibility given to the untimely doom of a young and beloved princess, was now renewed to the dust of her aged and revered grandsire. The one fell in the dawn of existence—the other in the fulness of his days; yet both are now united in the tomb, and tears never flowed for beings more sincerely loved when on earth, or more deeply regretted since this country has ceased to be adorned and blessed by their presence.

George III. was decidedly the most revered monarch that ever sat upon the throne of England. Strange as it may seem, even this last mournful ceremony appears like another separation. It does, indeed, break the only remaining link by which the object of our affection was still held to us. The stroke of death is terrible. There are few of us, who have not felt it so, when we have marked its approach, and looked upon its effects. Yet, we believe, there are as few, who when they have seen the grave close over the ashes of those they loved, have not, at that moment, wept their loss with a keener and more hopeless anguish. There is nothing beyond the gloomy precincts of the tomb upon which the heart can repose; except the consolations of religion, and one of its greatest is the voice that whispers "we shall meet again." Sustained by that hallowed hope, sorrow warms into the glow of piety, and though the pang of earthly separation still lacerate the bosom, we are comforted in our grief by that Divine word which has gone forth, and declared, that death itself "shall be swallowed up in

victory." What was witnessed in the capital, has doubtless been also witnessed over the whole empire; and this spontaneous homage (for such it is) to his memory, does honour to the moral and loyal sentiments of the British nation. No royal edict, no peremptory command, was needed, to call forth this outward sign of affectionate respect. A simple suggestion was the only act of authority that had preceded this general tribute to departed royalty. That which has been the lot of each of us, at different periods of our lives, was then the universal lot of the people of these kingdoms—they were assisting at the funeral ceremony of their common father, and following, as it were, his honoured corpse to the grave. Heaven seemed wrapped in glooms congenial to the feelings and sorrows of man. A thick mist settled on the metropolis at an early hour, and the scene became unusually grand and impressive.

Early in the morning the bells of the different churches began to toll, and continued to do so during the whole day, and till a late hour of the night. This ceremony of mournful respect was in some instances interrupted by the chimes that usually precede the morning and afternoon prayers; in others the chimes were omitted, and the only call of the parishioners to the devotional exercises of the day was the solemn slow-recurring note—the knell of departed royalty. In the intervals between the morning and afternoon service, a few of the churches in the city rung muffled peals, producing a singularly mournful effect. This practice, we believe, was adopted more generally in the country, arrangements having been made for the purpose in most of the principal towns throughout England. The day itself, being Ash-Wednesday, one of the strictest fasts in the ritual of the church of England, was

peculiarly appropriate to the mournful occasion, and probably the churches of London, in general, have never witnessed within their walls either more numerous congregations, or more sincere exercises of devotion. Reports collected from all quarters agree in stating, that not only the pews in general were regularly tenanted, but in many instances the aisles themselves were filled with well-dressed persons. Scarcely an individual, even of the lowest rank, had omitted to comply with the Gazette order, by putting himself in decent mourning; a circumstance which, while it greatly increased the respectable appearance of each assembly, also increased the general solemnity of the occasion. The effect of this uniformity of appearance, of one sable hue, was equally striking in the streets at the hour when the termination of the morning service crowded every part of London with persons returning home from their churches and different places of worship. Every shop was completely closed, and the practice was more universal even than on Sundays; it was not observed, however, that any of the windows of the houses, except those belonging to dwellings attached to government offices at the west end of the town, were closed. The clergy had wisely selected the occasion, when the heart was softened by the recent calamity, to impress upon the mind, amid the emblems of national sorrow, the truths of religion, the duties of morality, and a sense of the vicissitudes of human existence. The texts, which we have obtained in considerable numbers, point out the line of discourse taken by the respective preachers. The central point of all was, the duties of the fast, and the life and virtues of the monarch, the imitation of which would give comfort in life, and hope in death. The voice of the preacher, and the efficacy of his theme, were

aided in their effects by all that struck the senses—by all that met the eye and the ear. In many of the churches a selection of appropriate music was used, the congregation were all in mourning, and the service was performed in an unusually solemn manner. The pulpits, the reading-desks, the organ-loft, and the fronts of the galleries, were generally hung with black. The king's arms or escutcheon was, in most of the churches, placed on the black cloth in front of the pulpit. Many of the pews likewise were covered with black. The performance of divine service was not confined to the church of England, but took place among the Dissenters of every class, not excluding the simple religious rites peculiar to the Quakers, or, as they are more properly styled, the Society of Friends. At the meeting in Gracechurch-street, an extempore prayer for the sovereign was pronounced. The synagogues of the Jews were also appropriated to religious exercises.

All the vessels in the river Thames below London-bridge, in observance of the solemnity of the occasion, lowered their colours half-mast high. The range of ships also in the Pool, from Billingsgate down to Deptford, had a most impressive effect. At the Tower, as well as at the other public buildings, business was suspended.

The metropolis presented a scene, as the evening approached, still more striking than that which it had exhibited during the day. The ceremony of tolling the bell of St. Paul's cathedral, which it had been understood would take place between the hours of seven and nine, collected an immense crowd long before that time, who remained listening to these solemn tones heard at the death of princes till they had ceased to strike. The streets leading from the cathedral were thronged in every direction

as the crowd separated. At nine o'clock, the hour fixed for entombing the sovereign at Windsor, minute-guns began to fire in the Park, in the Tower, from the shipping in the river, and from several of the wharfs on its banks, and continued for more than an hour. Thus closed this day of general mourning and suspension from private thoughts and affairs, during which all London seemed animated by one soul, and fixed upon one subject.

We now proceed to describe the general appearance of the principal places of public worship in the metropolis, &c.

Westminster-Abbey.—The darkness of the morning, owing to the prevalence of a thick fog till near 12 o'clock, rendered lights necessary for the performance of divine service within the choir of this cathedral. Four candles were placed on the altar, and four others on the pulpit, while a few more were thinly scattered among the stalls; the light they diffused scarcely dispersed the gloom so as to render objects distinctly visible. The sides of the choir, above the stalls of the prebends, were hung with black cloth; and the altar, as well as the pulpit, was covered with the same material. In front of the latter appeared an escutcheon of the royal arms, richly worked in silk. The body of the choir was filled with well-dressed persons, who remained standing during the whole of the morning service. The common parochial service alone was read, and not that appropriated to cathedrals. There was consequently no chant or anthems, neither did the notes of the organ once mix with the solemn scene. The sermon was preached by the rev. Dr. Ireland, the dean of Westminster.

After the conclusion of morning devotions, numerous groups continued to wander about the majestic aisles of this venerable building;

reading on the monuments to departed worth contained within its walls, some of the glorious events of the reign of that sovereign, now himself consigned to the silent tomb.

The reverend dean delivered a most eloquent discourse, from the 31st chapter of Deuteronomy, 14th verse: "And the Lord said unto Moses, behold thy days approach that thou must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation."

St. Paul's Cathedral.—The right honourable the lord-mayor, accompanied by sheriffs Rothwell and Parkins, went in state to St. Paul's cathedral, where they were met by alderman Thomas Smith, alderman Waithman, sir William Curtis, bart., sir James Shaw, bart., sir Charles Flower, bart., alderman Cox, and sir John Silvester, bart., the recorder, and several members of the court of common council. An excellent and appropriate sermon was preached by the monthly resident prebend, the reverend George Secker, from the 63d Psalm, part of the first verse: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee."

The crowd was extremely great, and a very small portion of it only could hear the service. The conduct of some of the vergers in refusing seats in the gallery, while they were observed to be unoccupied, and in subsequently admitting their friends, or strangers for a *douceur*, had nearly excited a tumult within the sacred walls, similar to that which took place at the funeral of the princess Charlotte.

The Chapel Royal St. James's.—The service in this chapel was that which is appropriated to Ash-Wednesday, but there was no music either by the organ or the voice. A sermon was preached by archdeacon Thomas from the Acts

of the Apostles, chap. xvii. v. 30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

After reminding his auditors that these were part of the words used by St. Paul when brought before the Areopagus at Athens by some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers, who considered him a setter-forth of strange gods, because he preached Jesus and the resurrection, and touching on the allusion made by the apostle to the altar erected to the "unknown God" which he had seen near Athens, the reverend orator proceeded to comment on the words which compose the first part of the text, namely, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at." There might appear some inconsistency in these words, as if they implied that an indulgence had been given to that idolatry and wickedness which are so strongly condemned in other parts of the scripture; but there was a great distinction between that ignorance which was involuntary or invincible; which was occasioned by the absence of information, or the incapacity of the understanding to receive it; and that ignorance which was obstinate and wilful; which consisted in rejecting the light, and shutting the eyes against it. He therefore considered the words to apply exclusively to the Gentiles, who were in a very different situation from the Jews, as they had been favoured with no revelation since the time of Noah. It was consequently only their ignorance to which the indulgence was extended. This conjecture appeared by the introduction of the word "times," which implied that it was the ignorance of a period before the light of the gospel was made known; that the Almighty "winked at," or "overlooked," for the latter was the proper meaning of the word. He had ventured to offer this explanation, not

because it was new, but because he thought it might be useful in the present times; for the text he had chosen was one of those with which it had been endeavoured, under the mantle of an affected liberality, to cover every departure from the true faith. Having finished this topic, the reverend archdeacon briefly discussed the nature of the repentance which was commanded. He pointed out the necessity of its being sincere and lasting, and illustrated this opinion by strongly putting a case, to show the nature of the repentance which a man would expect from another who had been ungrateful to him, before he fully restored the offender to his confidence and affection. In this instance, as in many others, he observed, that the instinctive feelings of human nature accorded with the doctrines laid down in the gospel. This was the season more particularly set aside for repentance; and if ever there was a time more calculated to impress upon the mind the necessity of sincere repentance, it was certainly the present. The late sorrowful events which had passed, and their last sad consummation—the decease of the late lamented sovereign of this realm—conspiring with the solemn obsequies which were that day to take place, to recall all men to a sense of that duty. At the same time, these circumstances naturally led the mind to the recollection of the many and eminent virtues of that venerable prince, who had departed to a better world, but whose character he felt himself too feeble to attempt to sketch. He should only say, that he had proved himself the most excellent of Christians in all his relations with God, and the most excellent of sovereigns in all his relations with the state.

The pulpit was covered with black, and the royal arms were embroidered in the front. There were very few persons present.

Connected with the mournful ceremony of the funeral obsequies of George III., was the disinterment of his royal children, the princes Alfred and Octavius, for the purpose of being deposited in the mausoleum, and which was performed in obedience to the particular wish of their late illustrious parent, expressed previously to his last malady. The disinterment took place privately, in the presence of their royal highnesses the dukes of York, Clarence, and Gloucester, the dean of Westminster, the lord chamberlain, and the surveyor-general of his majesty's works.

The forms and regulations adopted by our predecessors of old, on occasions like the present, are admirably well calculated for rendering the cemeteries of the royal family inviolably sacred, thereby preventing private intrusion, or the gratification of idle curiosity. The authority is received direct from the king, by the lord chamberlain of the household, who communicates the same to the board of works, by which department the vault was built, and to whom is entrusted the entire charge of the same, though the entrance being within the choir of the church, it cannot be approached without the requisite ecclesiastical forms, and an order from the dean and chapter: thus the above ceremony could not take place without royal consent, and the joint interference of three several departments, in all other respects unconnected and quite distinct from each other.

At six o'clock in the evening, Mr. Mash, on the part of the lord chamberlain, Mr. Hiort, one of the principal officers of the board of works, and Mr. Glanvill, surveyor of the church, attended by Mr. Crocker, the clerk of the works at Westminster, and his workmen, proceeded to take up the marble paving and dig out the earth, which covers, at a depth of

about two feet, three ponderous slabs of stone, which being removed, discloses a circular staircase leading to a spacious passage, paved and arched with Portland stone, on either side of which are groined compartments, containing each two coffins, with their urns; and at the further end, under an arched recess, is placed a beautiful sarcophagus of black and gold marble, the top enriched with appropriate carving in white marble: in this are deposited the coffins of king George II. and queen Caroline; besides these, there are in all thirteen other coffins, including those of the prince and princess of Wales, the father and mother of our late beloved monarch, with the princes and princesses, his brothers and sisters. The vault is very spacious, and about nine feet in height, and its appearance peculiarly solemn and grand. The royal dukes remained within a considerable length of time, and seemed interestingly gratified and affected by the general solemnity of the scene. At eight o'clock, Mr. Banting, the royal undertaker, attended in Dean's-yard, with two hearses and four, grandly decorated, with the requisite mourning-coaches for attendants: the two coffins being then placed on biers, were brought out of the vault by men appointed by the board of works for that purpose, and delivered to the lord chamberlain's officers, and under their direction placed in the hearses and conveyed to Windsor, there to be privately deposited in the royal mausoleum, on Gothic pedestals of stone, in the same compartment with, and on each side of the coffins of our late revered king and queen. Mr. Brown, the assistant surveyor-general of the office of the board of works in charge of the mausoleum, attending there to receive the same. The coffins were in complete preservation, the crimson velvet being but little discoloured, and the ornaments perfectly bright;

that of prince Octavius is four feet four inches in length, and that of prince Alfred four feet: the former died in the year 1783, the latter in 1782. The above particulars will appear more interesting, when it is known that the royal sepulchre at Westminster being now full, will never again be opened.

The grave has now closed upon our late beloved sovereign, and he is gone to reap in another world a bright reward for the virtues which he practised in this. But at the same time, far be it from us to acknowledge that the account is closed between him and the nation who lament him. We have debts without number to discharge—a host of pious obligations to fulfil, and of moral and social duties to execute, all imposed upon his subjects, by George III. If we would pay its just tribute to his memory, we must learn to emulate his virtues. It is not to kings and emperors merely that he has left an example, from which they cannot swerve, without disgrace. It is to us—to his people, to the husband and father, to the public man and the private, to the rich and the poor, to every profession, to every persuasion, to every member of the Christian church, to every individual of human society, that this excellent person now speaks from the tomb, with a voice yet more commanding than he ever yet raised to the world from his throne, to walk humbly and devoutly in the sight of our Creator. It is an important truth, that most of the qualities which George III. possessed, of the dispositions which he cultivated, and of the virtues which he practised, were imitable and attainable by all classes of mankind. A great conqueror can be a model for those only who have legions of soldiers at their command; an enlightened law-giver for him who has power to legislate; an inventor in the arts, or an improver of science, for him who has genius and leisure undis-

turbed. But the moral virtues are of universal application. A good man in domestic life affords a fit lesson for all to practise. It is no excuse for those who turn away in carelessness or despair from such a pattern, to cry out, "Oh! but he is a king." What is it that makes it easier for a king to be a faithful husband, or a tender parent, or a kind master, or a disinterested friend, or a dispenser of charity, or an example of temperance, or diligent in business, or moderate in pleasure, or a discourager of vice, or edifying in devotion, than any more humble member of the community? Has a monarch the benefit of early restraint and abstinence impressed upon his childhood more frequently than other men? When he obtains the crown, has he fewer cares to oppress him, and is his disposition therefore less excusable? Is he less surrounded by distractions to make him idle, or by vicious pleasures to seduce him? We are all, on the contrary, less exposed than princes to variety of temptation, and less pardonable than they are when we fall. It is but mere justice, in estimating the character of our late beloved sovereign, or of any other, not only to record the excellence which he displays, but to allow for the dangers and difficulties through which he must arrive at it; for by them, undoubtedly, will all mankind be judged. And what, while he lived, and held his place amongst reasonable beings, what, it may be asked, was the influence of the royal virtues upon the nation at large? We are confident, that they did produce an extraordinary improvement in the general morality of the people of England; we are confident, that there has been, upon the whole, a sensible increase of domestic virtue in these islands, since the accession of George III. We know that there has been a vulgar sophistry employed, by a class of men whose single aim is to brutalize

all the noble feelings of our nature, who affect to ridicule the idea, that the nation would be afflicted at the loss of an individual, who was never seen by thousands and thousands of his subjects. Granted: but how many tears were shed, how many bitter sighs breathed from honest, manly hearts, when Nelson died, by those who never gazed upon the lineaments of the departed warrior. The public virtues of public men become sacred links which bind their weal or woe to the sympathies of mankind. The emotions which thrill us as we follow the varying fortunes of those great names of antiquity, whose unperishable deeds have been the glowing theme of panegyric to the historian. The poet and the moralist, nay, the passions with which a well wrought tale of fiction agitates us, explain at once why the peasant and the courtier alike participated in the grief occasioned by the loss of our good king. But we are almost ashamed to have wasted even these few words upon the pert imbecility which has drawn them forth. The nation's homage which was spontaneously offered to the virtues of George III. was like the quality of mercy "twice blessed." It honours his memory who receives it, and it honours their hearts who bestow it. It was a noble instance of the moral character of the country. The virtues of the late king were precisely those which every genuine Englishman would wish to practise himself, would sedulously inculcate in his offspring, and warmly admire in his friend. They fix their throne where religion, piety, and truth have laid the foundations. A profligate man might respect them, for that is a tribute which vice is often compelled to pay, but he could not love them. The good only love the good, and the nation, therefore, has written its own proud eulogium in the unaffected sorrow with which it bewailed the loss of its

revered monarch. There were no adventitious circumstances attending his death, calculated to produce sudden and transitory impressions. He was aged and sorely afflicted. His descent to the tomb, therefore, might have been viewed as the simple discharge of that debt which we must all pay, and most of us much sooner than he did, and as a release from sufferings whose distressing character would almost have sanctified the wish for his dissolution: yet when the last hour came, all those natural consolations fled, and his people mourned the final extinction of his virtues with a grief as fresh and poignant as if their loss were premature.

The operation produced by the virtuous life of our late sovereign, on the people whom he governed, can only be truly estimated by posterity, by those who shall measure him with his successors as well as his predecessors on the throne of England, and who shall have the power to contemplate the condition of the nation, and the state of society long after he shall have ceased, as well as before he began to rule. Yet it is impossible to conceive that the reign of George III. will not form a remarkable epoch in the British history, or that the sovereign's character, acting during so long a period on that of the people, will not have produced some change more observable by those who come after us, than by ourselves, who are in the midst of its production.

Future historians, whilst describing effects which shall in their time have become broad, strong and vast, will have to retrace them in the story of our country to their original causes, which they will say first began to operate in the protracted reign of George III. So far as these causes partake of the nature of the defunct sovereign, we may hope that they will be good and beneficent, at present they are latent, they

are laid up in the womb of time to be brought forth hereafter. The sovereign himself, even if he had possessed his faculties to the day of his decease would now no longer be the centre of motion in our political system—no longer the diffuser, in his own person, of bane and happiness. From a living man, from a crowned potentate, he is at once become the subject of history, and the time draws on when his character will be discussed with as tranquil feelings, as any of the physical occurrences, or public transactions of his day. The forthcoming race will perceive whatever change may occur in our situation: it will not feel our grief, but so long as the last man of the present generation lives, George III. will always be spoken of with gratitude and love.

The example of our late king was indeed a blessing direct from Providence, sent down as if expressly to counteract the evil consequences of our unprecedented growth in wealth, luxury and power. We required a moral standard, that should be conspicuous as it was perfect, and in our sovereign we had one of surpassing excellence. It was a standard indeed so well fixed in the prepossessions of all the existing race of Englishmen, that our children yet unborn will profit by its salutary power over the memories and morals of their parents. It is a standard which we trust for a long time to come, it will not be easy to unsettle. If the successors of our late monarch conform to his example, they may indeed strengthen and prolong its influence. If they depart from it, even in that case, they will for a season but endear it to us the more; indeed we may say with the poet:

In ripeness of years, and in fulness of glory,
Our Father is gone to the place of his rest.
Thy name, best of kings, shall live blazon'd in story:
How pure was thy life, and thy parting how blest!

The angel of death the sad tidings revealing,
 The last sands of life in thy glass had been run,
 Came soft as the shade on a summer eve stealing,
 Which tells that the day and its labours are done.

When earth was convuls'd, and her powers were shaken,
 By the tempest that burst in a deluge of blood—
 Unchanging thou stood'st, like a Heaven-lit beacon,
 And mark'd for the nations, their path in the flood ;
 And, when, to the haven, in safety, had ridden,
 The ark of their hopes, then thy light was withdrawn,
 As if brightness like this was, in wisdom, forbidden,
 On scenes of less awful importance to dawn.

Still, still, at the tomb where her champion slumbers,
 Shall Liberty's warmest orisons be paid,
 And tracing the past, as thy virtues she numbers,
 She'll hallow the spot where thy ashes are laid.
 In ages to come, when thy people are rearing,
 For royalty's relics, a suitable shrine,
 They'll think upon thee, and this labour forbearing,
 Will honour them most when they lay them by thine.

If then our present freedom—if the honours due to integrity, piety, and morals in high station—if correct conduct as a man, and polished manners as a gentleman—if the spirit of encouragement to national manufactures—if agricultural pursuits are benefits to the country—if attention to the welfare of the public at large—if the utmost care for the honour of the greater departments of the administration, which most immediately come in contact with the people, and for the religious establishment of the country, may claim our gratitude to the king, that gratitude will not be withheld by any Briton—that gratitude is due for benefits received by the nation from the personal conduct of its late sovereign, but infinitely more so to that supreme Ruler of the Universe, by “whom kings reign, and princes decree justice.”

Adieu then to the best of men, of patriots, and of kings. Live for ever in the endeared recollection of generations yet unborn. May an historian arise worthy to record thy unrivalled fame in the annals of the British empire.

May every successor of thy throne be ambitious to resemble, if he cannot emulate, thy illustrious example—and may the protestant church, the protestant state, and the protestant government, descend inviolate to the latest posterity.

If we compare George III. either in his public capacity, or in his private conduct, with his two immediate predecessors, who may nevertheless be considered as amiable sovereigns, the comparison is highly flattering to their immediate successor. Less impetuous and irascible than his grandfather, he possessed likewise a more capacious mind, more command of temper, and better talents for government. In moderation, judgement, and vigour of intellect, he at least equalled the first George, while in every other quality of the heart, and of the understanding, he exceeded that monarch. In his private life, as a husband, a father, and a man, he was superior to either; and upon all occasions consulted the strictest rules of moral and refined decorum. Is it any wonder then, that there has been scarcely a single subject of patriotic, moral, or religious excellence in the British empire, during the long period of his sway, which has not felt a pleasure in celebrating the amiable and respectable traits in the character of George III. When we reflect on these circumstances, we may say with Horace, addressing ourselves to the British nation—

Quando ullum inveniet parem ?

Where is the virtue which he has not shewn,
 To honour man and dignify a throne ?
 Be this his praise, all other praise above—
 A prince enthron'd upon his people's love !

Never sat upon the throne of these kingdoms
 a more virtuous, paternal, and pious king.
 Never manifested a ruler of his people a more
 awful sense of the source from which he derived

his authority, or of the great and beneficial end for which it was designed. Arduous as were his trials, long and momentous beyond former example as was the period of his reign, no difficulty, no temptation, no consideration was ever able to shake his firmness. He proved himself true to himself, his people, and his God. That principle of the constitution, which invested him with the exercise of mercy, was abundantly displayed. His was not the power armed with severity, but tempered with mildness. And strongly did the voice of pity plead in his breast, when the act of justice demanded the sanction of his name.

It might be one thing, to celebrate the continuance of so long a reign, and another to commemorate the virtues of him who reigned. But, in the present instance, we are called as powerfully to the one as we are to the other. We behold the people's prosperity and the monarch's welfare inseparable. We view no spirit of aggrandizement, no cruelty of ambition, wasteful of public blood—no violent abuse of power, invasive of private happiness and public security—no profligacy of character, no forgetfulness of himself, no neglect of his subjects' interests—but tenderest solicitude, paternal affection, constant and unwearied vigilance for their happiness, deep and becoming regard of his elevated station, and the exercise of

every quality which can adorn the man and dignify the prince.

The government of our church has been committed into hands which will not betray it. Pledged to maintain its interests, he has carefully guarded them. In the midst of his greatness he has thought upon his God. To him he has appealed in his prosperity: to him he has fled for refuge in his adversity. Christ has been the rock and anchor of his soul—a rock that cannot be shaken, an anchor that cannot be removed. If famine, or the foe, or pestilence, or sickness, has brought sorrow and affliction on his people, he has been the first to go into the house of the Lord his God, and entreat that the plague may be stayed; and, like the king of Israel at the dedication of the temple, has devoutly poured forth his soul in prayer: "Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive!"

In short, such has been his character in public and private life, that, amidst the wreck of crowns, to borrow the beautiful description of the Psalmist, "The Lord's hand hath held him fast, and his arm hath strengthened him. The enemy has not been able to do him violence, nor the son of wickedness to hurt him. And why? Because he putteth his trust in the Lord; and in the mercy of the Most High he shall not miscarry."

FINIS.

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